

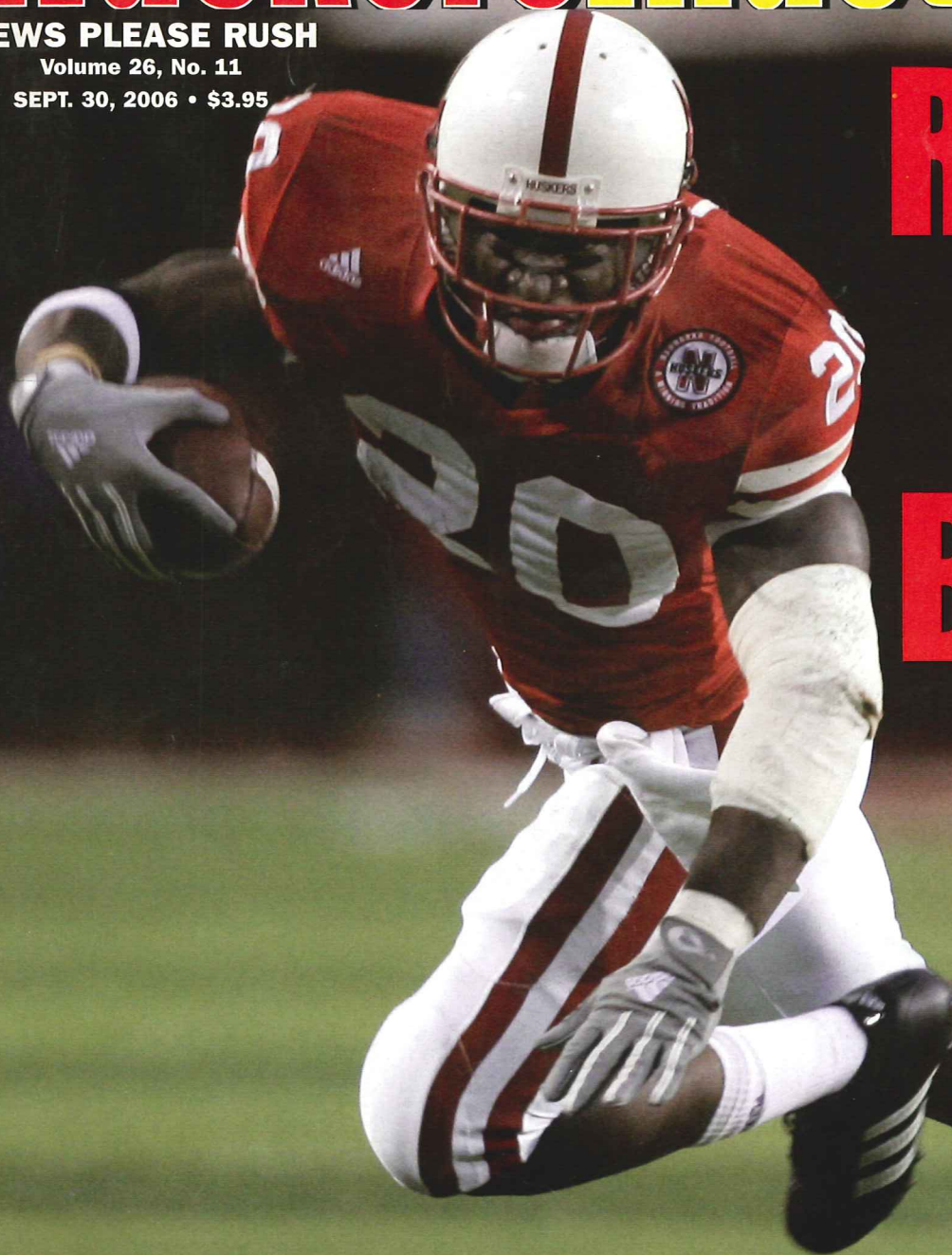
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Back On Track

*Huskers rebound from USC loss
to enter Big 12 schedule on positive note*



**Brian
HILL**

A LOT HAS HAPPENED since Nebraska last saw Kansas in a game that was most likely the low point of the 2005 season.

NU's 36-game winning streak against KU came to a shocking end, when the Jayhawks scored 23 unanswered points before the goal posts came down at the end of a 40-15 decision last Nov. 5 at KU's Memorial Stadium.

Nebraska rallied to win its final three games last year and will take a 3-1 mark into its Big 12 Conference opener with Kansas Saturday in Lincoln.

"It was a bad feeling after last year's loss," defensive end Jay Moore said after NU completed its nonconference schedule by smashing Troy 56-0. "It was a long bus ride back from Kansas. We learned a lot from that game, though, and got a lot better, and it carried through the rest of the season."

Like Nebraska, KU finished the nonconference season 3-1, but the Jayhawks needed an interception at their own 1-yard line with eight seconds remaining to hold off South Florida 13-7 in Lawrence.

The Huskers ended all doubts early about how they would perform against a team that had led Florida State in the fourth quarter and been tied with Georgia Tech entering the fourth quarter. After a week of questions about its ground-oriented offense in a 28-10 loss

at Southern California, NU racked up 406 yards of total offense in the first half and finished just short of the 600-yard mark in manhandling the Trojans.

You can read much more about sophomore I-back Marlon Lucky's career-best performance and Nebraska's impressive offensive performance in this edition of *Huskers Illustrated*. Lucky and junior Kenny Wilson each topped the 100-yard mark, and the players and coaches were quick to credit the offensive line. Guard Greg Austin, the only senior currently starting up front, is the subject of this week's "Spotlight," and junior defensive end Andy Poulosky answers "10 Questions."



Our "Recruiting Through the Years" series continues with a look at the 1969 class, no doubt among the best in Nebraska football history. It included future Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Rodgers and future Outland Trophy and Lombardi Award winner Rich Glover.

Lucky, who currently wears the No. 20 jersey made famous by Rodgers, was coming off a 10-carry, 27-yard rushing performance a week earlier at USC. He also suffered an elbow injury in that game but responded in a big way with 156 yards and touchdown sprints of 34, 45 and 51 yards. Nebraska has scored 14 rushing touchdowns in four games this season, after finishing with just 10 all last season.

"It was a good win for our football team in the way that we handled ourselves in the preparation of the week coming off of (Southern California)," coach Bill Callahan said. "It just shows the maturity about this football team. To come back in this fashion was very satisfying, and we look forward to the next game against Kansas."

And no doubt expecting a much different outcome this time around. ■

ON THE COVER

Sophomore I-back Marlon Lucky breaks away from a Troy defender on his way to a career-best 156 yards rushing and three touchdowns in Nebraska's 56-0 victory in the final nonconference game. Cover photo by Scott Bruhn.

Huskers Illustrated

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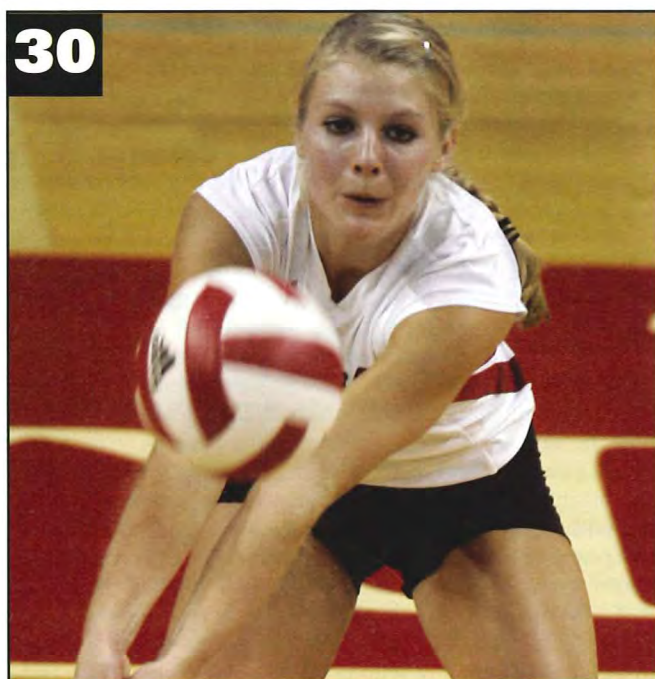
After back-to-back 6-4 seasons, Bob Devaney responded by changing the offense and stepping up recruiting. The 1969 class included Johnny Rodgers (above), who had considered USC. *By Mike Babcock*

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The Kansas review/Iowa State preview edition will be mailed Sept. 25. Check for updates at huskersillustrated.com.

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Coaching in Future

Free safety Andrew Shanle has played for two head coaches and three defensive coordinators during his time at Nebraska. From a stability standpoint, "that's a negative," he said.

When considered in a larger, career context, however, the changes have been positive. At least that's how Shanle sees it as he looks to the future. He plans to be a football coach.

Because of the changes, he "was opened up to three different (defensive) philosophies," he said. And "Coach (Bill) Callahan has been the best thing ever, just seeing a different style of offense."

Shanle, who is playing as a graduate student, settled on coaching when he was a sophomore. And he's been focused on that goal ever since. "He takes a lot of notes, things you would think you don't really need to write down. He definitely takes the most (notes) out of anybody among the safeties; that's for sure," said teammate Ben Eisenhart. "He's pretty detailed. He draws formations.

"Where other people just write stuff down, he draws it out."

In addition, "he watches film a lot. He's always up there watching film," Eisenhart said.

Eisenhart, also a product of eight-man football in high school, respects Shanle's commitment to coaching. "I don't know if I could do it," he said. "I get pretty intense."

Not that Shanle isn't intense. Football demands it. He wouldn't be starting on ability alone. But his personality is suited to coaching, relating to and teaching young men.

"He's one of the nicest guys I know," said Eisenhart.

Coaching, of course, "can make you not so nice if you're not winning," Eisenhart said. "I don't know. He's just a nice guy. Guys are going to love him, so they're going to play for him."

At this point, Shanle considers knowledge of the game the most important aspect of being a successful coach. "I know nothing about what a coach does in dealing with people," he said.

"If you can deal with people or not, I think it's more important just to know what you're doing. Obviously, dealing with people will come along the way. Stick to your philosophy and schemes, and whether people like you or not, you're going to be a great coach."

Even so, "I'd like to think I'm not going to be hard on my players," he said. "But that could all change when it comes to the stress of dealing with people." And dealing with win-



Andrew Shanle played in 35 games as a reserve safety and special teams player before becoming a starter this season as a senior.

ning and losing.

His education classes have helped him to understand different learning techniques, as has cornerbacks coach Phil Elmassian, who also coached the safeties in his first season at Nebraska.

Elmassian, "Coach E," relies on various teaching techniques, according to Shanle. "He'll take you through video, through a walk-through . . . I'm going to be a coach who really focuses on 'knowledge is confidence.' I'm going to walk my players through, make sure they understand it. And once they do, they can play a lot faster and just be more confident because they know why they're doing it.

"The more books I read about coaching, it's all about learning a behavior."

Because of his career goal, Shanle sees things the way the coaches see them. "Whether it's discipline or policies, whatever it is, you have a different outlook," he said. "You're not going to complain about things because you understand why certain schedules or policies are put in place.

"The more you look into why or what we're running defensively, the more you understand things. You can talk to the coaches on a different level, actually. You begin to ask questions that a lot of other players don't ask because it's something they don't really think about."



J.B. Phillips

IDENTITY CRISIS

J.B. Phillips hasn't switched positions, exactly. He's still a tight end, practicing with tight ends coach Shawn Watson. But he's also an H-back, a designation that can be confusing. "I'll move around. I can line up, really, anywhere on the field," the junior from Colleyville, Texas, said.

"I can split out, on the outside. I can line up what you would see as the regular tight end, line up in the backfield as a fullback or something like that. Really, the only way we're limited

is the legal stuff of football and whatever Coach Callahan thinks of. Other than that, I can line up anywhere."

Explaining the position to those unfamiliar with it can be difficult.

"People ask me, 'Well, what do you play?' Do I say I play tight end? Or do I say I play H-back? I really don't want a 10-minute discussion with everybody who asks me that," Phillips said. "I need to think of something, so I kind of stick with, 'I play football.' That's about it."

And if that's not sufficient, he tells people he's a tight end.

"Then questions don't arise," he said "It's a lot easier." ■

Quick Hits

TRACK & FIELD CAPTAINS

Cornhusker track and field coach Gary Pepin got his wish. "We always hope to have student-athletes of high character who are team-oriented to serve as captains," he said. And the 11 athletes chosen as captains for 2006-07 in a vote of their teammates meet the requirements.

"This is a very good group and an experienced group," Pepin said in announcing the 11.

Captains for the women's team are Ashley Selig, Casie Witte, Kayla Wilkinson, Justine Roach, Kim Pancoast and Betsy Miller, while the men's team captains are Nate Probasco, Issar Yazhbin, Daniel Roper, Gable Baldwin and Bryce Dickmeyer, who is serving as captain of the cross country team.

Pancoast and Miller are captains of the women's cross country team.

The men's team captains and all but one of the women's team captains are seniors; Miller is the lone exception. Probasco, Yazhbin and Selig also were captains last season. Selig was the NCAA pentathlon champion in 2005. She will be competing only during the outdoor season.

Witte also is a multi-events competitor, and Roach is a hurdler. Wilkinson competes in the throws. And Pancoast and Miller, of course, are distance runners, as is Dickmeyer. Probasco is a sprinter and Baldwin is a pole vaulter, while Yazhbin competes in throws and Roper in jumps.

ANNIVERSARY TEAM

Six former Huskers, all women, were included on the Big 12 Conference 10th anniversary track and field team: Becky Breisch (2002-06), Ann Gaffigan (2001-04), Dahlia Ingram (1997-00), Melissa Price (1998-01), Ineta Radevica (2003-04) and Anne Shadle (2002-05). The six accumulated 32 individual Big 12 titles and seven NCAA championships. The team was announced in May.

Conference coaches selected the team. In order to be eligible, an athlete had to have won at least one Big 12 championship. The women's team included 23 honorees, seven of them from Texas, while the men's team included 21 honorees, again led by Texas with four.

Breisch — nine conference championships and NCAA titles in the shot put and discus.

Radevica — three NCAA triple-jump titles in addition to sweeping the long jump and triple jump events at conference indoor and outdoor championships in both of her seasons as a Husker.

Ingram — seven conference titles in the long jump and triple jump and nine-time All-American.

Shadle — NCAA titles in the mile (indoors) and 1,500 meters (outdoors).

Price — two conference titles each in the weight and hammer throws, six-time All-American.

Gaffigan — ranks as the best all-time in the Big 12 in the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

GOOD NEIGHBOR TODD

Fullback Dane Todd, a senior from Lincoln, Neb., was among 11 named to the 2006 American Football Coaches Association Good Works Team. Todd was the 11th Cornhusker to be so honored. The only other Big 12 representative on the team was Oklahoma's Jacob Gutierrez, a junior running back.

The team was selected from nominations made by sports information departments. The qualify, a nominee must be "actively involved and committed to working with a charitable organization, service group or involved in other community service activities."

VIVE LE FRANCE

Following spring practice, prior to preparing to take the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), Todd traveled to France, his first trip there. Southern France is "a lot different

than I expected it to be, lots of hills and trees and rivers and streams," he said. "It was really nice."

"There was a greater proportion of really nice, helpful people. The southern part is countryside. They rely more on tourism than the man cities, so they like us a little better."

Paris was "all right," he said. "It was a big city. I'm not much of a big-city person."

Countryside or city, as far as the French cuisine went, "crepes were my favorite; stop at a crepe stand every 100 feet and pick up something disgustingly bad for you."

He gained a "few pounds" on the trip, even though he did some long-distance running while he was there. He ran in Husker gear. "You can imagine how well I looked doing that," he said.

"I was dodging cars and wild dogs. There were lots of dogs, ornery little things."

MORE GORDON RECOGNITION

So what else is new? Baseball America selected former Cornhusker All-American Alex Gordon as the minor league player of the year. Gordon was Baseball America's college player of the year for 2005. He is the first to win the magazine's awards in back-to-back seasons.

He also was named the Texas League player of the year and the Kansas City Royals' minor league player of the year after hitting .325 with 29 home runs, 39 doubles and 100 runs-batted-in for Double-A Wichita. He ranked second among all minor league players in total bases (286) 286 and fourth in runs scored (111). He also was tied for fourth in slugging percentage (.588).

Gordon's numbers were especially impressive in the second half of the season, as he led Wichita to the Texas League championship series: .346, 20 home runs, 20 doubles, 70 RBIs.

The only other Royals' player to earn Baseball America's minor league player of the year was pitcher Tom Gordon. The list of winners includes: Frank Thomas (1990), Manny Ramirez (1993), Derek Jeter (1994), Andruw Jones (1995-96), Eric Chavez (1998), Josh Beckett (2001) and Joe Mauer (2003).



Alex Gordon

FAST START

Coach Jay Dirksen's men's and women's cross country teams opened the season by winning the university division of the 17th annual Woody Greeno/Nebraska Invitational. The Huskers' Ari Goldstein, a sophomore, and Channing Anseth, a junior, finished first and second, respectively, in the women's 6K, while sophomore Peter van der Westhuizen (HI, Sept. 16, 2006) finished fourth to lead the men.

TIMKO AGAIN

The Husker soccer team extended its season-opening unbeaten streak to six matches, including four consecutive victories, before falling to Central Michigan at home. Coach John Walker's team rebounded to defeat TCU 4-0 to complete an eight-match, non-conference home stand.

Senior Brittany Timko scored two goals against TCU to increase her season's total to six. She was named the Big 12 offensive player of the week and was among four players included on the SoccerTimes.com Honor Roll for her accomplishments the previous week.



Brittany Timko

FOOTBALL QUOTABLE

Strongside linebacker Stewart Bradley, in early August, on his approach to his senior season: "I was just tired of Corey (McKeon) thinking he was the only fun guy (on the team) because he's the third funniest guy. I'm first and second. I'm just kidding . . . no, that's a bad answer. I don't know. It's my last year, last hurrah. Why play the super-plain person I'm not really? So just be real, I guess." ■



Becky Breisch



Dane Todd

Impressive Statistic

***Punter Titchener never expected
to have a passing record at Nebraska***



**Mike
BABCOCK**

SAM KOCH DID IT. So Dan Titchener does it. He considers it his responsibility.

We're not talking about punting, although Titchener has succeeded Koch in that capacity, too. Rather, we're talking about throwing passes to the tight ends after practice. Titchener usually joins tight ends coach Shawn Watson in throwing to Matt Herian, J.B. Phillips, Josh Mueller and the others.

Titchener makes no claims about the quality of those passes. Koch "had a really strong arm, a lot stronger than me," said the sophomore walk-on from Cheyenne, Wyo.

Maybe so, but Koch never threw a pass in a game.

Titchener, of course, did, early in the Southern California game, on fourth-down-and-2 from his own 36-yard line, with a national television audience looking on.

And not only that, he completed it to Todd Peterson for a 28-yard gain. Later, he doesn't remember exactly when, Peterson came over on the sideline and congratulated him on the throw. He thanked Peterson for catching it. "I didn't want to have an incomplete pass on my record," he said.

Titchener never expected to have a passing record at Nebraska. The last meaningful pass he threw might have been in a Punt, Pass and Kick competition during halftime of a Denver Broncos' game at Mile High Stadium. He got to do it twice, at age 8 and again at age "13 or 14."

Besides punting, he played tight end and defensive end in high school. Well, he did play some baseball. But "that's about the only throwing experience I had," he said.

Imagine his surprise, then, when Watson and special teams coordinator Bill Busch asked the week before the USC game if he could throw. Actually, they phrased it differently.

"They said, 'This is what we're going to do,' " said Titchener.

Because of the 'Trojans' punt-return package, Peterson could be open. And all he would have to do is get the ball to Peterson. They practiced the play "probably 15 times," Titchener said. Strong safety Ben Eisenhart, Peterson's back-up on the punt-coverage team, also practiced the play.

The day before the game, Titchener told his parents about the plan to trick the Trojans; he just didn't know when the play would be called. They were about as nervous as he was, he said.

As he ran onto the field during the Cornhuskers' second possession, "I heard Coach call it," he said. "I honestly didn't know we were going to call it that soon in the game. My

eyes kind of got big."

He felt about the same as he had the first time he punted in the opening game against Louisiana Tech. As he waited for the center snap, and while the ball was coming to him, "I was thinking, 'Don't drop it. Don't drop it,' " he said. "I almost did. I bobbled it a little bit. But I got it gathered."

Titchener's 1-for-1 passing is an impressive statistic. But the numbers that really matter are those related to punting, a job he earned during training camp in competition with true freshmen Michael Such and Alex Henery and junior Tyler Kester — all three of whom also are walk-ons.

Titchener picked Nebraska over several schools, among them Wyoming, Colorado, Illinois, Columbia and Northern Illinois, which didn't contact him until late spring but offered a scholarship. By then, however, he had committed to Nebraska and wasn't about to back out on the commitment.

He took a recruiting trip to Columbia, an Ivy League school located in New York City, even though he told the coaches he wouldn't likely go there. They told him to come for a visit anyway. "I wasn't going to turn down a free trip to New York City," he said. "It was pretty neat.

"It was really a lot of fun for a weekend, but I could never put up with that for four years. It was just so much of a change-up from Cheyenne that I don't think I could have handled it."

Initially, his parents wanted him to stay close to home and go to Wyoming, which offered an academic scholarship. But Wyoming also came in late, as if it expected him to go there because

he was from in the state. So "it was a pretty easy choice," he said.

"I decided to come here and it's worked out for the best."

Nebraska has a tradition of success with punters who have walked on. The last six have done so, counting Darin Erstad (1994), who had a baseball scholarship, of course. The others were Sam Koch (2004-05), Kyle Larson (2001-03), Dan Hadenfeldt (1999-2000), Bill Lafleur (1998) and Jesse Kosch (1995-97). Titchener has already met all of them except Erstad. "Before I came, I had no idea," he said. "When I got here, I started hearing all the stories about the old punters. It was kind of interesting."

He's done something none of the others did, complete a pass. ■



Dan Titchener averaged 40.1 yards on his first nine punts.

Mike Babcock is a former sports columnist for the Lincoln Journal Star. He has covered Nebraska football for more than 25 years. Mike can be reached at MBABCOCK1@neb.rr.com or P.O. Box 6782, Lincoln, NE 68506.

Growing Pains

Kansas willing to take its chances with redshirt freshman at quarterback



Curt McKEEVER

ASK KANSAS FOOTBALL COACH Mark Mangino whether he fears throwing Kerry Meier into the fire, and he's bound to tell you his redshirt freshman quarterback can walk on hot coals.

Indeed, the 6-foot-3, 210-pound Meier has difference-making kind of skills. And while he's already experiencing typical first-year swings, Mangino has no doubts the Jayhawks are much better off — not only for the long run,

but for this season.

"He's a fierce competitor. He's a lion-hearted guy," Mangino told the Lawrence (Kan.) Journal-World. "He comes to play, and he gives you a lot of savvy."

Kansas' fourth game of the season pitted the Jayhawks against the top-throwing freshman quarterback in NCAA Division I-A, South Florida's Matt Grothe. While leading the Bulls to a 3-0 record, Grothe passed for 647 yards and six touchdowns.

But Meier entered that game ranked No. 2 among I-A freshman quarterbacks with 538 yards and six TDs.

In his third start, which resulted in Kansas dropping a 37-31 double-overtime decision at Toledo, he added some very real growing pains to the figurative ones he'd already experienced.

Meier completed 23 of 41 passes for 243 yards and two touchdowns against the Rockets. He also had five turnovers, including two in the overtimes that spelled the end for KU.

"I found out he really wasn't (OK)," Mangino said. "He's a 19-year old kid that's extremely competitive. He didn't want to come off the field. He got nicked up, and it affected his range of motion. We could tell after the fact, watching the tape."

"(But) his teammates, after the game — he threw a couple of interceptions, and they're bragging about him, because they're in the huddle with him. They said 'This guy's unbelievable.'"

Meier finished with four interceptions in the contest, giving him seven in his first three games. But he'd also accounted for nine total TDs.

"We're not making any excuses," Mangino said, "but when you consider all the other things he did in the game, he kept us in the game. He's the guy that kept our offense in the game all night long."

After his third interception was returned 84 yards for a touchdown in the fourth quarter, Meier responded to lead a nine-play, 69-yard drive that culminated with a 20-yard touchdown pass. Meier then ran an option play and dove into the end zone for the game-tying two-point conversion.

"The game was a learning experience for Kerry," Mangino said. "He just has to learn to handle the ball more carefully. The bright side is, boy you like having a kid like that on your team."

"He's a tough customer. That type of mentality in the long run will benefit us."

As a precaution, Meier sat out the first practice after that game. But Mangino made it clear he'd be back at full strength for the South Florida game.

Meier, who's older brother Dylan is Kansas State's senior starting quarterback, rose to the top of the depth chart by beating out senior Adam Barmann during spring practice. While his arm strength is a plus, he's not a one-dimensional player. Against Toledo, Meier had 57 yards rushing.

Running back Jon Cornish had 20 carries for 89 yards, giving him 332 for the season. That put him ahead of the pace to became the first Jayhawk to produce 1,000 yards in a decade.

Cornish also has capable hands, but junior wide receiver Marcus Henry has emerged as one of Meier's favorite targets. Henry caught a TD pass in each of the first three games. In his first start against Toledo, he had 67 yards receiving on four catches.

Kansas will be trying to follow up last year's 40-15 victory against Nebraska, a result that snapped the Jayhawks' 36-game losing streak to the Huskers. KU limited Nebraska to 138 yards of total offense, including just 21 on the ground.

At Toledo, the defense limited the Rockets to 28 yards and no first downs in the second half. But with too many late-game mistakes, including a few by Meier, the Jayhawks were saddled with their 18th loss in 21 games they've played on the road under Mangino.

Later, KU's head coach refused to point the finger at his quarterback.

"I made a decision to leave him in the game. 'If there's any turnovers that were thought to be attributed to him, attribute them to me,'" Mangino said.

In other words, he's prepared to ride Meier whenever and wherever the kid wants to go.

"I like to call him just simply 'The Magic' because he does just that," Cornish said of Meier after he completed 8-of-18 passes for 110 yards and two touchdowns, and added 59 yards rushing and two more scores in his Kansas debut.

That night, Mangino toned down the game plan, partially out of respect for the opponent, Division I-AA Northwestern State (La.).

But he promised then, "We're not going to run a vanilla offense just because of Kerry. Everything we have in our offensive package has been executed at one time or another on the practice field."

"We will not be conservative with him, I can assure you that. We don't need to be. He can make plays, so we'll let him fly." ■



Kerry Meier threw for six touchdowns in his first three games.

Curt McKeever is a sportswriter for the Lincoln Journal Star. In addition to reporting on football, he is the primary beat writer for the men's basketball and baseball teams. He can be reached at cmckeever@journalstar.com

RECRUITING THROUGH THE YEARS

Steppin

*After back-to-back
6-4 seasons, it was
time for some changes*

By Mike Babcock

The best evaluation of a recruiting class is after the fact. And from that standpoint, the 1969 class had to have been among the best in Nebraska football history.

The Cornhuskers were coming off back-to-back 6-4 seasons, and coach Bob Devaney was under pressure himself after refusing to replace some of his assistants. Fan disaffection was such that a group of boosters in Omaha circulated a petition calling for his ouster.

During speaking engagements, Devaney often joked that when he came to Nebraska from Wyoming, he was assured that he would have the support of fans, "win or tie."

After the 1968 season, such an assertion was no laughing matter.

The Cornhuskers had opened with three nonconference victories and been ranked No. 9 in the Associated Press poll. But they had faltered in Big Eight play, losing two of their last three by a combined 59-0. And one of the shutout losses was against Kansas State, in the Homecoming game.

Assistants John Melton and Tom Osborne waited to leave the coaching box on the press level at Memorial Stadium until disgruntled fans had cleared the stands, or so Melton claimed.

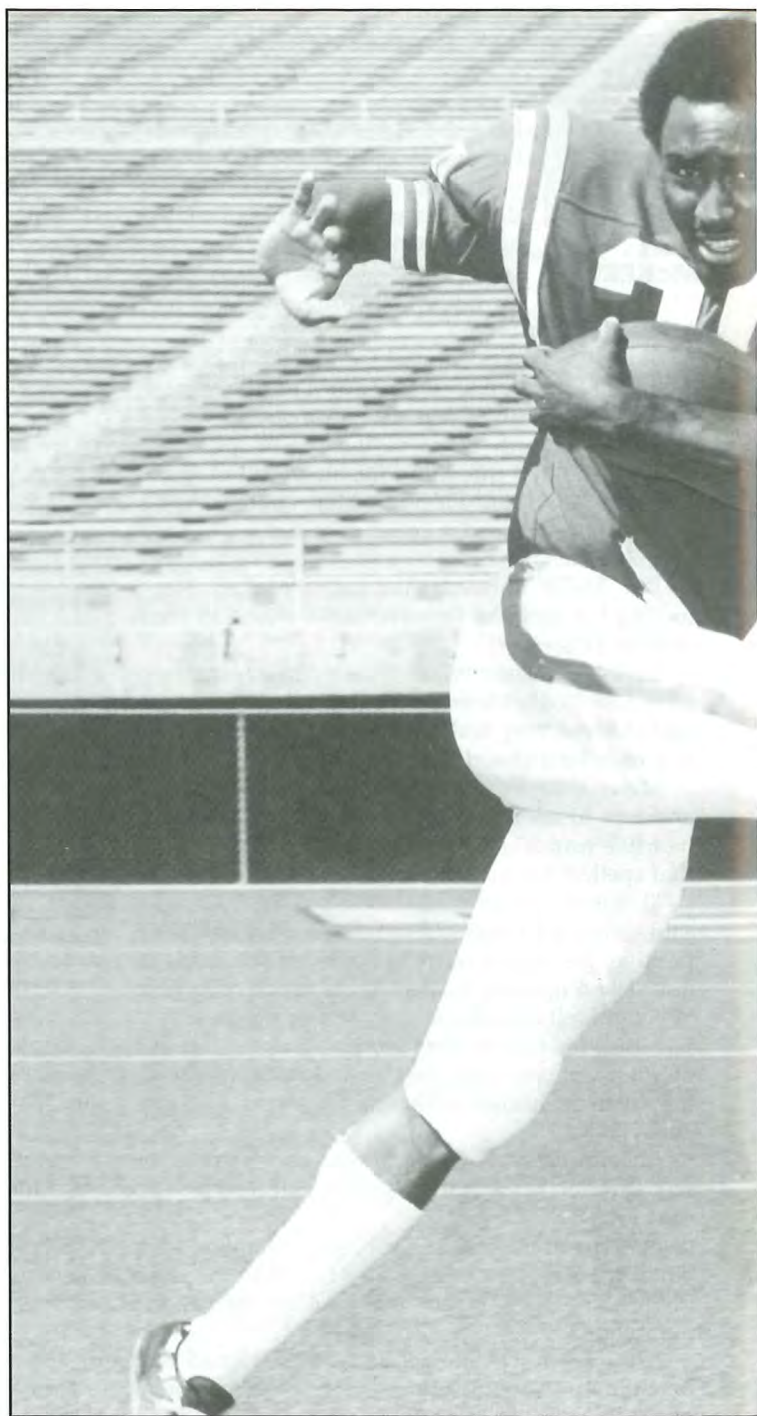
Losing to the Wildcats 12-0 was about as bad as things could get . . . about as bad. Two weeks later, following a 22-6 victory at Colorado, the Cornhuskers lost at Oklahoma 47-0.

That represented rock bottom during the Devaney era.

Devaney responded like the Hall of Fame coach he was. He turned over the offense to Osborne, charging his young assistant with restructuring it. And he stepped up recruiting.

In-state athletes provided a foundation on which he built the class. Five members would earn All-America

Fourth in a Series



recognition, four of them twice. And two of those four would be the most decorated Cornhuskers in history at that point, one on offense and the other on defense.

The offensive player was Johnny Rodgers, the defensive

ing It Up



The two most decorated members of the 1969 recruiting class were Johnny Rodgers (left) and Rich Glover (above).

player Rich Glover.

Cornhusker fans can recount their accomplishments. Rodgers was Nebraska's first Heisman Trophy winner in 1972, with Glover third in the voting — the first such finish

since Army's Doc Blanchard and Glenn Davis (Blanchard won the award in 1945, with Davis third, and Davis won the award in 1946, with Blanchard second). Glover also won the Outland Trophy and Lombardi Award.

No team had ever produced the Heisman Trophy and Outland Trophy winners in the same season, and no program had produced back-to-back Outland Trophy winners until then.

Nebraska's Larry Jacobson won the 1971 Outland Trophy.

Rodgers and Glover came up big in big games, the biggest, of course, being the 1971 "Game of the Century" at Oklahoma. Rodgers' punt return opening the scoring in the first quarter and his key third-down pass reception kept the dramatic winning touchdown drive alive. Glover provided the defensive equivalent, lining up against All-America center Tom Brahaney and making 22 tackles.

A season later, Rodgers and Glover finished their Cornhusker careers appropriately, earning the outstanding offensive and defensive player awards in the 1973 Orange Bowl victory against Notre Dame. Rodgers ran for three touchdowns, caught a touchdown pass and threw a touchdown pass, while Glover was credited with 10 tackles, five of them unassisted in the 40-6 blitz of the Irish.

Rodgers set or tied 19 school records, seven Big Eight records and four NCAA records during his three seasons as a Cornhusker, catching passes and returning kicks. Osborne, his position coach, has said more than once that as great as the 1971 national championship team was, "take Johnny Rodgers out of there on kick-off and punt returns, and it probably wouldn't have gone 13-0."

Jim Walden, a Nebraska assistant in 1971 and 1972, said years later, as head coach at Iowa State, "Once you've been around a Johnny Rodgers, it's all kind of downhill after that in my lifetime." He called Rodgers "the greatest punt returning athlete in the history of the game, in my opinion."

Rodgers was a prep All-American at Omaha Technical High School. But he would have gone to Southern California had coach John McKay offered a scholarship. The Trojans were "top of the line then," Rodgers has said. "There was no comparison." During McKay's 16 seasons (1960-75), USC won four national championships. And it produced two Heisman Trophy winners with whom Rodgers was familiar, Mike Garrett in 1965 and O.J. Simpson in 1968, Rodgers' senior year at Tech.



Rich Glover (79) and Willie Harper (81) pressure a quarterback during a 1971 game.

*Recruiting list, 1969 (lettermen or on the fall 1970 roster)

Player, Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown	Letters
Frosty Anderson, split end	6-0	165	Scottsbluff, Neb.	Frosh, 1971-72-73
Al Austin, off. tackle	6-5	208	Lincoln, Neb.	Frosh, 1971-72-73
Joe Blahak, cornerback	5-10	175	Columbus, Neb.	Frosh, 1970-71-72
Randy Butts, halfback	6-2	200	Grand Island, Neb.	Frosh
Tom Deyke, def. end	6-3	212	Columbus, Neb.	Frosh
Joe Duffy, middle guard	6-2	205	Pittsburgh, Pa.	Frosh
John Dutton, def. tackle	6-7	235	Rapid City, S.D.	Frosh, 1971-72-73
Rich Glover, def. tackle	6-1	225	Jersey City, N.J.	Frosh, 1970-71-72
Dave Goeller, halfback	5-11	180	Pilger, Neb.	Frosh, 1972-73
Willie Harper, def. end	6-3	205	Toledo, Ohio	Frosh, 1970-71-72
Joe Henderson, off. tackle	6-2	215	Red Cloud, Neb.	Frosh
Dennis Hughes, off. guard	6-1	206	Fremont, Neb.	Frosh
Doug Johnson, def. end	6-4	210	Omaha	Frosh, 1970-71
Monte Johnson, def. end	6-6	225	Bloomington, Minn.	Frosh, 1970-71-72
Bob Jones, quarterback	6-4	210	Chicago	Frosh
Max Linder, quarterback	6-3	200	Plattsmouth, Neb.	Frosh
Brent Longwell, punter	6-4	205	Homer, Neb.	Frosh, 1970-71-72
Bill Norberg, halfback	6-0	191	Palo Alto, Calif.	Frosh
John O'Connell, safety	6-2	187	Sidney, Neb.	Frosh
Bill Olds, fullback	6-1	210	Kansas City, Kan.	Frosh, 1970-71-72
Mike Peetz, monster	6-1	197	Sidney, Neb.	Frosh
Ralph Powell, fullback	6-2	212	Detroit	Frosh, 1972-73
Tom Robison, def. tackle	6-3	235	Detroit	Frosh
Johnny Rodgers, halfback	5-10	171	Omaha	Frosh, 1970-71-72
Steve Runty, quarterback	5-11	186	Ogallala, Neb.	Frosh, 1972-73
Bob Schmit, halfback	6-1	187	Boys Town, Neb.	Frosh, 1972-73
Kelly Schultz, tight end	6-4	210	Palo Alto, Calif.	Frosh
Jon Strong, linebacker	6-3	204	Fremont, Neb.	Frosh
Daryl White, off. tackle	6-4	236	East Orange, N.J.	Frosh, 1971-72-73
Bob Wolfe, tight end	6-5	232	Omaha	Frosh, 1971-72-73

*Complete list unavailable, includes some walk-ons

Note: Heights, weights and positions as listed at the end of spring practice in 1970. Big Eight Conference begins requiring official weights to coincide in brochures and game programs.

USC was on its way to becoming "Tailback U." And Rodgers wanted to play tailback. He did for the

Cornhusker freshman team, leading it in rushing. But he was moved to slot-back until his final game, in the

Orange Bowl, when Devaney surprised Notre Dame by putting him at tailback.

Glover was recruited from Henry Snyder High School in Jersey City, N.J., where he also earned All-America recognition. He began his Cornhusker career as a defensive tackle, but was considered too small, and after playing as a back-up his sophomore season, he was moved to middle guard.

Several years after he finished at Nebraska, Glover returned for a Big Eight championship banquet and in an emotional speech in front of recruits said "the greatest moment of my life was winning a scholarship to come to Nebraska. I just want to tell you fans how much I love you all."

The 1969 recruiting class included another two-time-All-American-to-be from New Jersey, offensive tackle Daryl White from East Orange. He would play for the freshman team and then redshirt, as would defensive tackle John Dutton, a high school All-American from Rapid City, S.D.



Daryl White

Dutton was a first-round NFL draft pick, after earning All-America honors on Osborne's first team as head coach in 1973, and played 14 seasons with the Baltimore Colts and Dallas Cowboys.

Willie Harper was the other two-time All-American in the 1969 recruiting class, one of the best defensive ends in school history. He came from Toledo, Ohio, J.W. Scott High School, where his coach was former Cornhusker Bill Thornton — who also joined Devaney's staff in 1969.

Harper played middle guard on the freshman team but was considered too small and was moved to defensive end in the spring. He would go on to be a second-round NFL draft choice and play 11 seasons with the San Francisco 49ers, finishing his career with the USFL's New Jersey Generals.

The 1969 recruiting class produced another second-round draft pick, even though he never started at Nebraska, defensive tackle Monte Johnson, who played eight seasons with the Oakland Raiders.

Johnson came from Bloomington,

Minn., and might not have been offered a scholarship if a film sent by a rival high school in Robbinsdale, Minn., hadn't been misplaced.

Metropolitan Minneapolis provided several players during Devaney's tenure as head coach and Cornhusker assistant Carl Selmer had gotten the film of a Robbinsdale game against Johnson's Lincoln High team. Robbinsdale had asked for the film back but the coaches couldn't find it.

Clete Fischer, another assistant, came across it while looking for something else and asked Selmer about it. Initially, they thought the game involved the local Lincoln High team.

When they finally looked at the film, they were impressed by the

Lincoln High player in jersey No. 78. So they contacted the Robbinsdale coach to ask who he was. It was Johnson.

Selmer "was the only coach who was telling me things clearly and with a high degree of integrity," Johnson has said. "Carl said, 'We really think you can contribute.'"

Nebraska's coaches "were really trying to have two good, back-to-back recruiting classes."

The 1968 and 1969 classes were better than good. In retrospect, they were great, producing back-to-back national championships, the first in school history.

"The real tradition and consistency" started with them, Johnson said. ■



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Paying the Price

Austin has never questioned decision to keep playing after knee injury

By Terry Douglass

#65 GREG AUSTIN
SENIOR GUARD

In addition to all the team goals that Nebraska has set for the 2006 season, senior Greg Austin has a few personal objectives that he plans to get squared away before his time as a Cornhusker is through.

While winning a Big 12 Conference championship is his ultimate quest, not far behind for Austin is a restoration project that has become very close to his heart. The 6-foot-1, 295-pounder from Cypress, Texas, believes he has a personal responsibility to do his part to return Nebraska's offensive line tradition to its past glory.

"The guys who came before you have high expectations of you," Austin said. "They've taught us that the happiness that comes with being on the offensive line at Nebraska is nurtured by the happiness from within our own group."

"That's the nature of Nebraska football tradition as a whole. Our success is braced by the people who were successful here before. This whole football program is built on tradition."

For several decades, Nebraska's offensive lines have been tabbed as the "Husker Pipeline" for the program's ability to regularly churn out top-notch performers up front. As NU's program began to slip toward the end of the 2001 season, so did the reputation of its offensive line.

Since his arrival as a freshman in 2003, Austin has been on a mission to restore the tradition that has been explained to him by several ex-Huskers who have returned to Lincoln to visit the team. With former offensive linemen regularly showing up at practice and sitting in on meetings, Austin said he's become keenly aware of just how important it is to uphold the "Husker Pipeline" reputation.

"When they came and talked to us about what we needed to do and stuff we've seen from past film, you start to know about tradition," Austin said. "They come and talk to you, and they tell you they are right behind you through thick and thin."

That makes you say, 'I want to play for these guys,' because they set something up, and they want us to continue the success that they had when they were here.

"When those players started coming back here, that's when I fully understood what it meant to be a Nebraska offensive lineman."

Austin's dedication to Nebraska football and upholding the good name of the offensive line cannot be questioned. After working his way into the regulation offensive line rotation as a true freshman during the 2003 season, Austin suffered a knee injury against Kansas that forced him to miss the remainder of the year and appeared to be career-threatening.

Austin's kneecap had slid out to the exterior side of his right knee. When it went back into place, the bone tore cartilage in the back of his kneecap. Now, parts of his



Scott Bruhn

kneecap don't have cartilage, meaning that Austin has bone rubbing on bone in his knee.

"It was career-threatening, and it's already known that I'm really just fortunate to be on the field anyway," Austin said. "My knee just kept slipping out, and cartilage got torn and cartilage is still torn."

Austin's situation looked so dire that when offensive line coach Dennis Wagner came on the scene with head coach Bill Callahan's staff early in 2004, he was told not to plan on having Austin. Wagner said he even approached Austin about the possibility of taking a student-coaching position.

"I had been told by our trainers he may never play again," Wagner told reporters in the spring of 2005. "What Greg has done is totally amazing."

Austin wouldn't hear of giving up the game. He worked out religiously to rehabilitate his knee and played in all 11 games of the 2004 season as a backup, before starting Nebraska's first 10 games of 2005 at left guard and playing in all 12 contests.

To be back on the field, Austin has paid the price. He constantly has to

deal with pain while trying to make up for the lost mobility caused by his injury.

"I love the game," Austin said. "I love the game, and I love the team. If I can help them, then I'm going to help them any way I can. That's just how I look at it."

"Every day I've just got to go out there and see what the knee does. I'm such an optimistic person that I always think that it's going to be good each day."

Some days his knee isn't "good." Still, never once has Austin questioned the practicality of his decision to keep playing or pondered the price he might pay later in life.

"I can't live like that right now," Austin said. "I'm 21, so I guess the future will all take care of itself. It's something I've chosen to go through right now."

Ironically, Austin grew up hoping to build upon his family's football legacy while playing for the University of Texas. However, the Longhorns never offered Austin a scholarship, and he was forced to look for other options.

"I felt I could've gone anywhere in

Texas, except UT — I really wanted to go to Texas," Austin said. "That was like my school of choice back then, but then when it doesn't work out, you've got to move on. Basically, that's why I came up here."

Not surprisingly, Austin no longer counts himself as a Longhorns' fan.

"Not at all," Austin said. "That's all changed. I've had a change of heart."

Austin became familiar with Nebraska's program by attending one of the Huskers' summer camps with a friend. He impressed several members of former coach Frank Solich's staff, received a scholarship offer and gave his commitment prior to his senior year of high school.

As it turned out, that decision played out well for Austin. He missed more than half of his senior year with a broken foot, which might have otherwise hampered his ability to land a scholarship from a top-level school.

"I was very fortunate to have committed to Nebraska," Austin said. ■

Terry Douglass is the sports editor of the *Grand Island (Neb.) Independent*. He can be reached at terry.douglass@charter.net.

HUSKER FANS

Tickets and hotel packages are available for all Husker games.

September 16 at U.S.C.

October 21 Texas (home)

HOME GAMES

9-2 Louisiana
9-9 Nichols St.
9-23 Troy
9-30 Kansas
10-27 Texas
11-4 Missouri
11-24 C.U.

AWAY GAMES

9-16 USC
10-7 Iowa St.
10-14 Kansas St.
10-28 Oklahoma St.
11-11 Texas A&M

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10 QUESTIONS

with **ANDY POULOSKY**

**6-2/260 Jr. Defensive End
Ponca, Neb.**

The celebration began prematurely. Before Titus Brothers and Zack Bowman ran Michigan tight end Tyler Ecker out of bounds at the Cornhuskers' 13-yard line, Andy Poulosky was headed onto the field at last season's Alamo Bowl game. "That would have been me," Poulosky said recently.

He figured Michigan would be throwing the ball backward on the final play, so he "decided to back up on the sideline, get down where the game maybe would end," he said. "I could have sworn Blake Tiedtke jumped up and caught the ball, came down with it. I swear I heard a whistle."

If he did, the whistle wasn't an official's, which meant he didn't belong on the field just yet.

"A couple of people followed me out there, but then they decided to run back to the sideline pretty quick," he said. "So it's a good thing we didn't get flagged for it."

"No one really knew what was going on. It was a pretty bizarre play."

That Poulosky would be in such a situation isn't surprising given his enthusiasm. Even though he played in only one game prior to this season, he has a unique passion for Cornhusker football. He could have played at a smaller school, with a scholarship, but he chose to walk on. The decision was a no-brainer. When Nebraska contacted him, "I said, 'There you go. That was pretty easy.'"

He remembers attending his first game at Memorial Stadium, with his family, when he was "about 8-years-old." He remembers where the seats were, in Section 33. And he remembers thinking then he'd like to play for Nebraska. "I didn't understand; the games were just cool to go to," he said.

"It was a great atmosphere, a lot of fun. I'm so glad my parents had the opportunity to take me. I'm glad I grew up in a state where football means a lot to people."

If someone visited you in Ponca, what would you want to show them?

"I don't know. I'd have to say . . . they've got the park out there. The river's pretty cool. But I'd probably just welcome them into my home, bring 'em out to the farm, show 'em around, do something like that. There aren't too many big things to see in Ponca; I'm not going to lie. We live right by the river, so I could show them that, too. I live about a mile from the Missouri River."

If you were a pro wrestler, what would your character be and what would your finishing move be?

"I'd probably be somebody who resembled 'The Undertaker.' That was always one of my favorites when I was little, that or 'The Ultimate Warrior.' My finishing move would probably just be a 'whale smash' off the top rope or an elbow drop. That would be my knockout move."

If you could spend 30 minutes with any celebrity, sports or otherwise, who would it be?

"Brian Urlacher, by far, would be the No. 1 person I'd like to meet. He played at New Mexico, and he wasn't a very big guy. I'd never heard of him until he was drafted by Chicago. I'm a huge



Bears' fan. I did a little research on him because he was such a good player. He was returning punts, returning kicks. He has played safety. He was an awesome athlete. And he handles himself well on and off the field. He's one of those people I look up to. He's always been one of my favorites."

What do you see yourself doing 10 years from now?

"Hopefully being a college coach. We've got a lot of good resources here with all the coaches coming from everywhere. They know a lot about the game and really study the game. It's a good influence on me. I learned a lot of things even after high school. I didn't know a whole lot about football in high school. I got down here and these coaches know a lot. They're great coaches, great mentors. They know the game. They study the game. They know everything about it. I plan on being a graduate assistant, going on from there. I did a little bit of coaching, Midget Football I guess you could say, last spring and had a blast. We played six games and had a lot of fun. I love being around this game."

Who's the funniest among the defensive players?

"I'd have to say, without a doubt, Barry Cryer. That guy is just a character, I swear. I'm really going to miss him when he's gone. He livens up practice. He livens up everything. There's never a dull moment with that guy. He's got a good heart. He makes everything around him fun."

If you had a CD player and only three CDs to play on it, what would you pick?

"I'd have 'AC/DC Live.' I'd have 'Pearl Jam 10.' And I'd probably have 'Smashing Pumpkins Greatest Hits.'"

If your life were made into a movie, who would you pick to play the part of you?

"I think Russell Crowe did a good job in 'Gladiator.' so I'd probably pick him. He's one of my favorite actors."

What's your favorite movie?

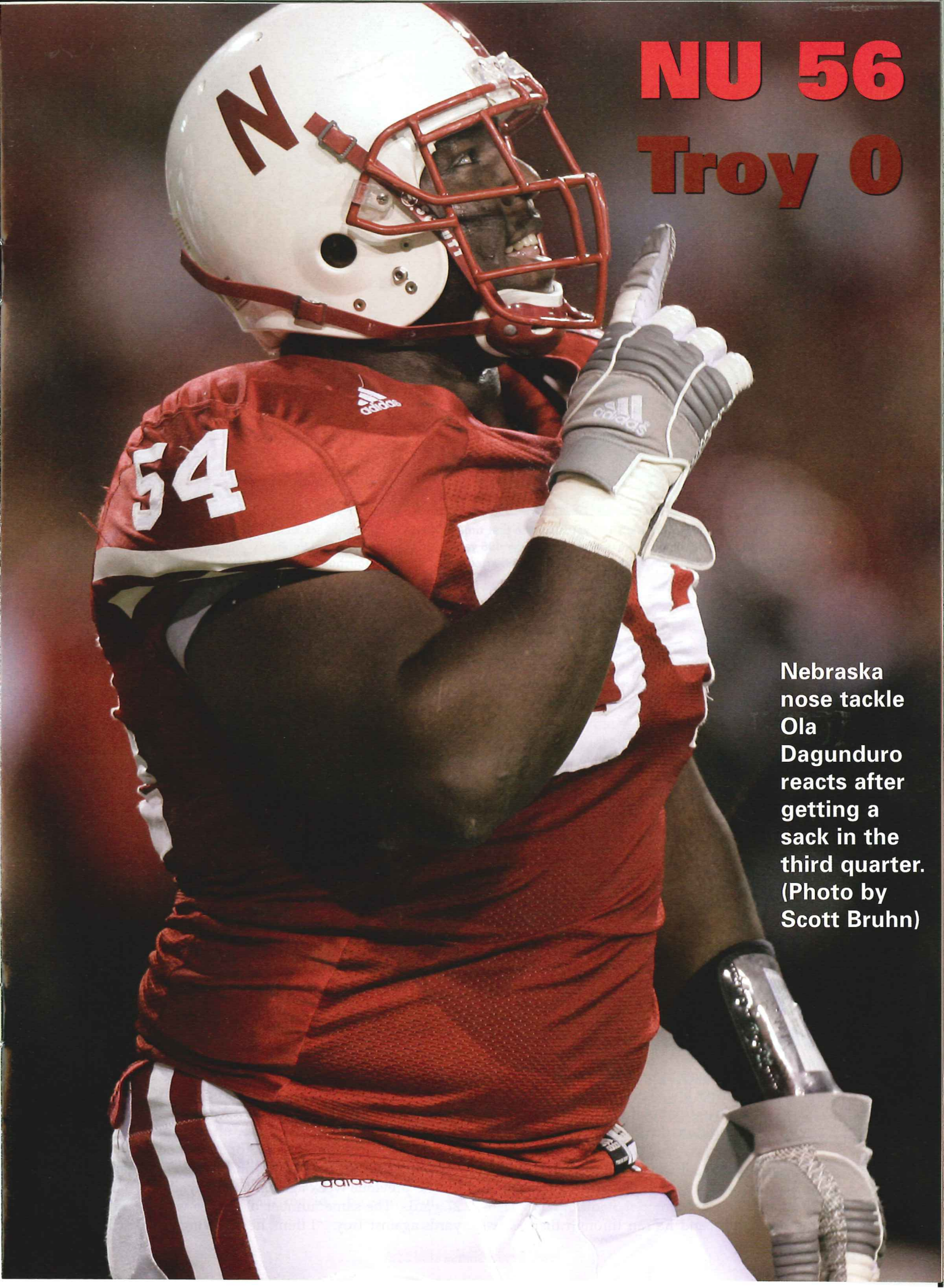
"My favorite movie overall, I love football movies, and 'Any Given Sunday' is one of my favorites. 'Unnecessary Roughness' was my first football movie, and it's fantastic. It has all the NFL guys playing for the Texas State Penitentiary, and they come out, Ronnie Lott, L.T., all those guys."

If you could eat only one thing for the next month, what would it be?

"I'd have to say Cold Stone ice cream. I'd probably get a little Peanut Butter and Cake Batter ice cream with some Oreos in it."

What's the toughest class you've taken at Nebraska?

"Probably one of my psychology classes. All those are pretty tough. It's hard to pinpoint one of them. You have to put a lot of time into studying. It's a lot of work, but it's not boring." ■

A full-page photograph of Nebraska nose tackle Ola Dagunduro. He is wearing a white helmet with a red 'N' and a red jersey with the number 54. He is pointing his right index finger upwards. The background is dark and out of focus.

NU 56

Troy O

Nebraska
nose tackle
Ola
Dagunduro
reacts after
getting a
sack in the
third quarter.
(Photo by
Scott Bruhn)



Nebraska had two backs rush for more than 100 yards for the first time since 2004. Backup I-back Kenny Wilson follows guard Andy Christensen through the hole (above) on his way to rushing for 106 yards and two touchdowns. Sophomore starter Marlon Lucky (right) celebrates with linemen Matt Slauson (70) and Brett Byford (59) after one of his three touchdowns. Lucky rushed for 156 yards.

Leading The Way

Lucky gives credit where credit is due

By Mike Babcock
Photos: Scott Bruhn

WORTH ANOTHER LOOK

Behind every good running back is an offensive line, figuratively speaking. The line is in front of the back, of course, not behind him. But you get the idea. Marlon Lucky certainly did. The offensive linemen "blocked a helluva a game," he said after the Cornhuskers' 56-0 victory against Troy at Memorial Stadium. They fashioned "some big holes," and he ran through them. Give

credit where credit is due.

Lucky, with the help of the line, made it sound, and look, easy. On his fifth carry, he raced 34 yards for a touchdown. And on his sixth carry, he raced 45 yards for a touchdown. Then, for good measure, on his third carry of the second half, he raced 51 yards for a touchdown.

That also was his 10th and final carry of the game.

The previous week against USC he carried 10 times for 27 yards. The same number of carries were good for 156 yards against Troy. "I think he's moving really well," said



quarterback Zac Taylor. "He's seeing the cuts before they're even there. Things are just really slowing down for him.

"That's the biggest thing you see. As a freshman last year, he kind of tried to make a play; he kind of tried to force cuts. This year, he's just letting everything happen. He's running smooth."

And, of course, "it's fun to watch," Taylor said.

It also was fun to do. After he broke the first long run, he wanted to break another, and another. "You want to run more," said Lucky. "I had that in my head all night."

Though the emphasis has been on running back by committee, Lucky has been the first one on the field in every game, an indication that he might be emerging as the go-to guy.

He doesn't see it that way, however. "I'm not really, probably, the go-to guy. We're all rotating in there. Whoever gets hot," the soft-spoken sophomore from North Hollywood, Calif., said.

He was hot, to be sure. "I came in today just wanting to show something," he said.

And the offensive line allowed him to do so.

It also allowed junior Kenny Wilson to rush for 100 yards — 106 to be exact — for the first time in his Cornhusker career. Wilson carried 19 times, the same number he had against USC as well.

On the last touchdown drive, Wilson carried seven consecutive times.

The last time Nebraska had two 100-yard rushers in the same game, by the way, was in 2004 against Western Illinois, when Cory Ross and Tierre Green did it.

In any case, given the play of the linemen, Lucky was asked if he planned to take them out to dinner as a way of thanking them. "If they want me to," he said. But, he added, they hadn't asked yet. ■

REPORT CARD

RUSHING OFFENSE

Nebraska's 316 rushing yards were the most since Callahan's first game as coach in 2004, against Western Illinois (363). More significantly, perhaps, the Cornhuskers averaged 6.9 yards per attempt, helped by big plays. They had five runs of 20 yards or more. The offensive line deserved much of the credit. And quarterback Zac Taylor contributed, too, managing the calls, according to Callahan. ★★★★★

PASSING OFFENSE

Taylor was nearly perfect, though he did throw an interception. He gave way to Joe Ganz with 7:48 remaining in the third quarter. Ganz was 2-of-6 for 13 yards and a touchdown to fullback Matt Senske. The touchdown catch was the first offensive touch of Senske's career. ★★★★★

RUSHING DEFENSE

Troy couldn't establish a running threat, averaging 1.8 yards per rush. The Trojans were dropped for 61 yards in losses. "I saw our defense play hard up front," said Callahan. "Any time you win a game of this magnitude, it starts with your offensive and defensive lines." ★★★★★

PASSING DEFENSE

Troy quarterback Omar Haugabook took a pounding. He was sacked three times and intercepted once, by free safety Andrew Shanle. "I thought our front four played extremely well tonight," Callahan said. "They put a lot of pressure, a lot of heat, on that quarterback." ★★★★★

SPECIAL TEAMS

About the only thing Troy did well was return kick-offs. And the Trojans had plenty of opportunities, though early in the game the plan was for Jordan Congdon to kick the ball low to prevent big returns. The Trojans also managed to run a botched snap on a punt 27 yards for a first down. ★★★★★

NUMBERS

The Cornhuskers got off to an impressive start, rolling up 406 yards of offense in the first half. The total wasn't a record, however. In the first half of the Arizona State game in 1995, they gained 508 yards, and scored 63 points, in a 77-28 victory. The last time Nebraska gained more yards in a half was against Baylor in 2000, when the Cornhuskers rolled up 416, also in the first half.

406

NEBRASKA-TROY NOTES

MUTUAL RESPECT

Troy had Nebraska's complete attention, "like I told Coach (Larry) Blakeney, 'You've got our respect. You can bank on that. You've got our respect,'" Bill Callahan said.

And the Cornhuskers earned Blakeney's respect. He called Nebraska the "best football team we've faced in a long time . . . great coaching on their side of the field. Their players were prepared and ready and big and fast. I don't know what they call that offense, if it's west coast or east coast or south coast of whatever, but it was very well-designed and it gave us more than we can handle."

BLAKENEY'S VOTE

Nebraska was ranked No. 23 in the Associated Press poll and No. 24 in the USA Today Coaches poll going into the game. But the Cornhuskers deserved to be higher, according to Blakeney. "In my opinion, they'll move up in my poll," he said. "I don't know about anybody else's, but they'll move up in my poll after seeing what they do on film and seeing them not quite be able to get it done against USC and then what they did tonight."

TOUGH ROAD

Playing on the road, against top competition, for three consecutive weeks took a toll on Troy. The Trojans lost at Florida State, ranked No. 9 at the time, 24-17 and at Georgia Tech 35-20. "We had played pretty well against Florida State. We played pretty well against Georgia Tech leading into the fourth quarter, when we were tied. But this bunch of guys is different," said Blakeney.

"Their style of play and their physical approach and their ability with (Zac) Taylor to throw the football down the field really gave us more than we could handle. We were probably overmatched in some areas. I'm not an excuse-maker. Nebraska was plenty good. Nebraska beat Troy."

MOVING UP

Cornhusker quarterback Zac Taylor completed 14-of-17 passes for 268 yards and one touchdown. He now ranks fourth in career-passing yardage at Nebraska (3,525), moving ahead of Turner Gill (3,317) and Tommie Frazier (3,521). "It's great to be mentioned in the same breath with those guys. They were great players, and they led some great teams," Taylor said. "It's neat to be able to say that you passed those guys on a chart, but I want to lead (a team) to a conference title just like those guys did."

Taylor's interception late in the second quarter snapped a streak of 83 without being picked. His only other interception this season came on his fourth pass against Louisiana Tech.

He completed his first seven passes, including six for 108 yards and a touchdown on Nebraska's first two drives. "Zac was on, and when he's on, he's on," said Callahan. "There was determination and a lot of grit inside that wanted to get released, and I think he did tonight."

FIRST-AND-35

On its second possession, Nebraska faced a first-down-and-35 from its 45-yard line after an illegal block penalty and a holding penalty. Not to worry; Taylor completed a pass to Nate Swift, good for 49 yards and a first down. On the next play he passed to J.B. Phillips for the touchdown.

The Cornhuskers were prepared for such a predicament. "We had some schemes set up to attack that particular coverage that they were playing in that down and distance," Callahan said.

Taylor credited the offensive line for giving him time to find Swift. "I kind of like getting in those situations now," said Taylor. "We know we can overcome those things."

NUNN BETTER

Junior wide receiver Terrence Nunn caught four passes for 102 yards, a career high. His previous high was 91 yards against Michigan in the Alamo Bowl. His 67-yard reception in the second quarter also was a career high. He has now caught at least one pass in 17 consecutive games, the third-longest such streak in Cornhusker history — behind Johnny Rodgers (37) and Matt Davison (20).

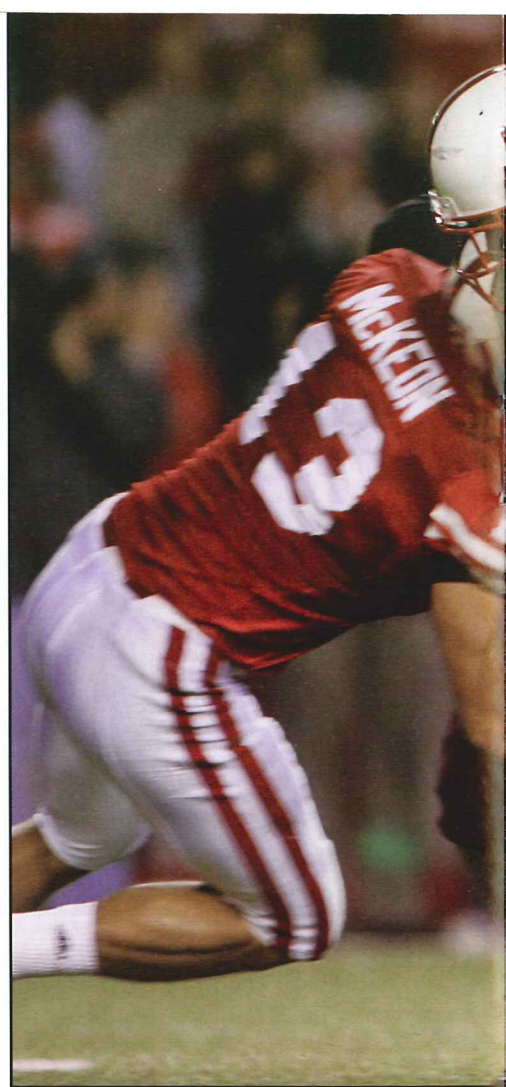
Nunn moved up to fifth on Nebraska's career-receptions list with 73, passing Cory Ross (71) and Tim Smith (72). He is one behind No. 4 Guy Ingles and 11 behind No. 3 Jeff Kinney.

BUSY BRANDENBURGH

With middle linebacker Phillip Dillard and Nick Covey lost for the season to injuries and Steve Octavien and Clayton Sievers sidelined, junior Lance Brandenburg picked up the slack. He worked at all three linebacker positions, Callahan said. "We were mixing and matching guys in there."

SHUTOUT

The shutout was Nebraska's first since the 2003 season, when the Cornhuskers shut out Iowa State 28-0. They also shut out Troy that season, 30-0. Getting a shutout is "always a goal in the back of our minds," said senior free safety Andrew Shanle. "It's definitely nice to see the goose-egg at the end of the game. It's just icing on the cake to get the shutout after playing so well." ■



Nebraska's Brandon Rigoni (24) takes off with a misplayed fumble and returned the fumble 11 yards to the Troy 4, setting up a touchdown.

INJURY REPORT

Sophomore I-back Cody Glenn didn't carry the ball against USC because there was no opportunity to use him, coach Bill Callahan said afterward. Glenn didn't carry against Troy, either, but for a different reason. He had what Callahan called a "tweaked" hamstring. Glenn worked out prior to the game and "just wasn't full speed, so we decided to back him down and get ready for Kansas," Callahan said.

Linebackers Clayton Sievers and Steve Octavien were held out of the game because of hamstring problems, and center Kurt Mann remained down because of mono. He was out of the hospital, however. Junior Brett Byford again started in place of Mann.



shandled punt in the third quarter, as teammate Corey McKeon (13) moves in. Rigoni up NU's sixth touchdown.

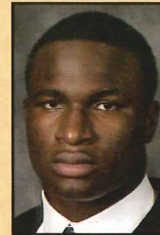


Troy coach Larry Blakeney doesn't like what he's seeing.

Who Stood Out?

OFFENSE

Nebraska's running game was double-trouble. I-backs Marlon Lucky and Kenny Wilson each rushed for 100 yards, Lucky 156 and Wilson 106. Lucky scored three touchdowns and Wilson scored two. "To their credit, I thought their reads were excellent," Callahan said. Brandon Jackson also was productive, rushing for 60 yards and a touchdown.



Marlon Lucky

DEFENSE

Senior defensive end Adam Carriker was a little too much for Troy's offensive line to handle. He was credited with three tackles, including one for a 3-yard loss, two quarterback hurries and a pass breakup. "He played really well," said Callahan. "He had a good match-up and took advantage of it." Senior strong safety Tierre Green was the Cornhuskers' leading tackler with seven. Ndamukong Suh was credited with 1.5 sacks for 16 yards in losses, and the sophomore defensive tackle forced a fumble.



Adam Carriker

SPECIAL TEAMS

Brandon Rigoni's play on special teams was exemplary, as usual. On the kickoff following Lucky's second touchdown run early in the second quarter, Rigoni took on two would-be blockers, knocked them both to the turf, popped up and was to the far sideline before the would-be blockers could shake the cobwebs. Midway through the third quarter, Rigoni picked up a mishandled punt and returned it 11 yards to the Troy 4-yard line, setting up Nebraska's sixth touchdown. Not enough? Early in the fourth quarter, Rigoni was the first down on punt coverage, hitting Leodis McKelvin from the blind side and forcing a fumble, which Bryan Wilson recovered at the Trojans' 25-yard line to set up another touchdown.



Brandon Rigoni

GAME STATS

SCORING

Sept. 23, 2006
Memorial Stadium Lincoln, Neb.
Attendance 84,799

	1	2	3	4	F
Troy	0	0	0	0	0
Nebraska	14	14	14	14	56

First Quarter

	TROY	NU
NU Lucky 34-yard Run (Congdon Kick) 09:13 Drive: 10 plays 73 yds 5:47	0	7

NU Phillips Pass from Taylor 6-yards (Congdon Kick) 04:30 Drive: 5 plays 72 yds 2:54	0	14
--	---	----

Second Quarter

NU Lucky 45-yard Run (Congdon Kick) 11:34 Drive: 2 plays 81 yds 0:56	0	21
--	---	----

NU Wilson 3-yard Run (Congdon Kick) 03:09 Drive: 12 plays 71 yds 5:42	0	28
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Third Quarter

NU Lucky 51-yard Run (Congdon Kick) 09:31 Drive: 5 plays 75 yds 2:54	0	35
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NU Senske Pass from Ganz 1-yard (Congdon Kick) 06:21 Drive: 3 plays 4 yds 1:47	0	42
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Fourth Quarter

NU Jackson 8-yard Run (Congdon Kick) 13:39 Drive: 4 plays 25 yds 1:06	0	49
---	---	----

NU Wilson 8-yard Run (Congdon Kick) 06:45 Drive: 11 plays 67 yds 5:25	0	56
---	---	----

TEAM STATS

	TROY	NU
Total First Downs	10	25
Rushing	6	12
Passing	4	11
Penalty	0	2
Rushing Attempts	27	46
Yards Gained Rushing	109	333
Yards Lost Rushing	61	17
Net Yards Rushing	48	316
Net Yards Passing	92	281
Passes Attempted	24	23
Passes Completed	15	16
Had Intercepted	1	1
Percent Completion	62.5%	69.6%
Yards per Attempt	3.8	12.2
Yards per Completion	6.1	17.6
Total Offensive Plays	51	69
Total Net Yards	140	597
Avg. Gain Per Play	2.7	8.7
Fumbles: No-Lost	6-2	0-0
Penalties: No-Yards	10-80	8-65
Punts: No-Yards	8-325	2-72
Avg. Per Punt	40.6	36.0
Avg. Net Punt	40.4	36.5
Punt Returns: No-Yards	1--1	2-2
Kickoff Returns: No-Yards	8-109	1-27
Interception Returns: No-Yards	1--2	1-0
Fumble Returns: No-Yards	0-0	1-11
Miscellaneous Yards	0	0
Possession Time	23:46	36:14
Third-Down Conversions	1-11	7-11
Percentage	9.1%	63.6%
Fourth-Down Conversions	1-2	1-1
Percentage	50.0%	100.0%
Sacks By: No-Yards	1-12	4-36



Terrence Nunn makes the catch on a 67-yard pass play near the end of the first half.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

TROY

	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Allen	4	39	0	39	9.8	0	17
Cattouse	5	26	1	25	5.0	0	12
Jones	5	15	3	12	2.4	0	9
Banks	1	2	0	2	2.0	0	2
Wright	2	9	15	-6	-3.0	0	0
Foster	3	5	12	-7	-2.3	0	3
Haugabook	7	13	30	-17	-2.4	0	7
Total	27	109	61	48	1.8	0	17

	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Haugabook	21	12	57.1	1	88	0	25
Foster	2	2	100.0	0	12	0	9
Banks	1	1	100.0	0	-8	0	0
Total	24	15	62.5	1	92	0	25

RECEIVING

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Banks	2	30	0	25
Hampton	4	16	0	6
Rutledge	2	13	0	9
East	1	10	0	10
Terry	1	10	0	10
Allen	1	9	0	9
Williams	1	9	0	9
Davis	1	7	0	7
Jones	1	-4	0	0
Haugabook	1	-8	0	0
Total	15	92	0	25

PUNT RETURNS

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
McKelvin	1	-1	0	0
Total	1	-1	0	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
McKelvin	3	48	0	26
Cattouse	1	34	0	34
Rutledge	1	13	0	13
Mack	2	10	0	7
Terry	1	4	0	4
Total	8	109	0	34

PUNTING

	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In	20
Wright	7	42.6	52	0	0	1	1	1	2
Vera	1	27.0	27	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	8	40.6	52	0	0	1	1	1	2

DEFENSE LEADERS

	Solo	past	Tot	TFL	Sack	PD	FF	FR
Condren	12	1	13	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Williams	1	6	7	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
McKelvin	5	1	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Lloyd	2	3	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Lewis	3	1	4	1-3	0-0	0	0	0
Pittman	1	3	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Lang	0	3	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Mainor	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Maxwell	0	3	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Todd	0	3	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Cain	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Chubb	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
McClendon	0	2	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Pendergrass	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Reese	0	2	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0

INTERCEPTION RETURNS

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Bray	1	-2	0	0
Total	1	-2	0	0

NEBRASKA

	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Lucky	10	156	0	156	15.6	3	51
Wilson	19	106	0	106	5.6	2	21
Jackson	11	63	3	60	5.5	1	26
Taylor	3	8	0	8	2.7	0	5
Nunn	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
TEAM	1	0	2	-2	-2.0	0	0
Ganz	1	0	12	-12	-12.0	0	0
Total	46	333	17	316	6.9	6	51

	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Taylor	17	14	82.4	1	268	1	67
Ganz	6	2	33.3	0	13	1	12
Total	23	16	69.6	1	281	2	67

RECEIVING

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Nunn	4	102	0	67
Swift	3	79	0	49
Purify	2	45	0	36
Hardy	1	16	0	16
Phillips	2	16	1	10
Senske	2	13	1	12
Mueller	1	2	0	2
Lucky	1	2	0	2
Total	16	281	2	67

PUNT RETURNS

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Nunn	2	2	0	3
Total	2	2	0	3

KICKOFF RETURNS

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Wilson	1	27	0	27
Total	1	27	0	27

PUNTING

	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In	20
Titchener	2	36.0	37	0	0	1	0	0	0
Total	2	36.0	37	0	0	1	0	0	0

DEFENSE

	Solo	past	Tot	TFL	Sack	PD	FF	FR
Green	2	5	7	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Steinkuhler	4	1	5	1-4	0-0	0	1	0
Bradley	1	3	4	1-8	0-0	0	0	0
McKeon	1	3	4	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Ruud	2	2	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Shanle	2	2	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Carriker	2	1	3	1-3	0-0	1	0	0
Grixy	3	0	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Jones	2	1	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Suh	2	1	3	2.5-19	1.5-16	0	1	0
Cryer	0	2	2	0.5-4	0.5-4	0	0	0
Dagunduro	2	0	2	2-11	1-10	0	0	0
Erickson	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Young	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Brandenburg	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Kadavy	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Moore	1	0	1	1-6	1-6	0	0	0
O'Hanlon	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Poulosky	1	0	1	1-3	0-0	0	0	0
Rigoni	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	1
Thenarse	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Turner	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Wilson	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	1

INTERCEPTION RETURNS

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Shanle	1	0	0	0
Total	1	0	0	0

2006 SEASON STATS

RUSHING

	G	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Lucky, Marlon	4	51	365	0	365	7.2	5	51	91.2
Wilson, Kenny	4	62	291	13	278	4.5	3	30	69.5
Glenn, Cody	3	24	135	0	135	5.6	3	18	45.0
Jackson, Brandon	4	23	133	7	126	5.5	2	26	31.5
Taylor, Zac	4	13	29	21	8	0.6	1	8	2.0
Nunn, Terrence	4	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Ganz, Joe	3	2	10	12	-2	-1.0	0	10	-0.7
TEAM	3	4	0	13	-13	-3.2	0	0	-4.3

PASSING

	G	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Taylor, Zac	4	89	63	70.8	2	872	8	67	218.0
Ganz, Joe	3	12	6	50.0	0	93	2	31	31.0
Titchener, Dan	4	1	1	100.0	0	28	0	28	7.0

RECEIVING

	G	No	Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Nunn, Terrence	4	14	209	14.9	0	67	52.2
Herian, Matt	4	8	135	16.9	2	36	33.8
Purify, Maurice	4	5	134	26.8	1	42	33.5
Swift, Nate	4	6	125	20.8	0	49	31.2
Peterson, Todd	4	4	89	22.2	0	31	22.2
Lucky, Marlon	4	6	69	11.5	0	19	17.2
Jackson, Brandon	4	7	61	8.7	0	22	15.2
Hardy, Frantz	4	4	54	13.5	1	16	13.5
Phillips, J.B.	4	7	41	5.9	2	10	10.2
Teafatiller, Hunter	4	1	29	29.0	1	29	7.2
Mueller, Josh	4	3	18	6.0	1	8	4.5
Senske, Matt	3	2	13	6.5	1	12	4.3
Todd, Dane	4	2	9	4.5	1	8	2.2
Erickson, Dan	4	1	7	7.0	0	7	1.8

PUNT RETURNS LEADERS

	G	No	Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Nunn, Terrence	4	13	107	8.2	0	31	26.8
Swift, Nate	4	2	49	24.5	0	33	12.2

KICKOFF RETURNS

	G	No	Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Green, Tierre	4	3	59	19.7	0	23	14.8
Wilson, Kenny	4	1	27	27.0	0	27	6.8
Jackson, Brandon	4	1	15	15.0	0	15	3.8

PUNTING

	G	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+ In	20
Titchener, Dan	4	11	39.4	53	0	1	3	2	3

FIELD GOALS

	G	Att	Made	Lg	Blkd
Congdon, Jordan	4	2	1	38	0

DEFENSE LEADERS

	G	Tack	Asst	Tot	TFL	Sack	PD	FF	FR
Bradley, Stewart	4	8	13	21	1-9	0-0	1	1	2
Green, Tierre	4	10	11	21	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
McKeon, Corey	4	10	11	21	1-2	0-0	1	0	1
Ruud, Bo	4	7	11	18	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Grixby, Cortney	4	13	4	17	0-0	0-0	2	1	1
Carriker, Adam	4	5	9	14	3-11	1-7	2	0	0
Jones, Andre	4	7	5	12	0-0	0-0	2	0	0
Shanley, Andrew	4	6	6	12	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Steinkuhler, Ty	4	10	2	12	1-4	0-0	0	1	0
Octavien, Steve	3	5	4	9	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Erickson, Dan	4	3	5	8	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Moore, Jay	4	6	2	8	4-22	2-16	1	0	0
Suh, Ndamukong	4	5	3	8	3-27	2-23	0	1	0
Turner, Barry	4	4	3	7	0-0	0-0	0	0	1
Cryer, Barry	4	3	3	6	1-8	0-4	0	0	0
Eisenhart, Ben	4	4	2	6	2-6	0-0	0	0	0
O'Hanlon, Matt	4	0	6	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Young, Corey	3	4	2	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	0

TEAM STATISTICS

	NU	OPP
Total First Downs	95	56
Rushing	48	24
Passing	44	29
Penalty	3	3
Total Net Yards	1890	1031
Total Plays	282	222
Yards Per Play	6.7	4.6
Yards Per Game	472.5	257.8
Rushing Attempts-Yards	180-897	126-444
Yards Per Attempt	5.0	3.5
Yards Per Game	224.2	111.0
Pass Att.-Comp.-Int.	102-70-2	96-53-2
Passing Yards	993	587
Yards Per Completion	14.2	11.1
Yards Per Game	248.2	146.8
Punting: No.-Avg.	11-39.4	27-38.0
Fumbles-Lost	6-3	18-7
Penalties-Yards	21-181	28-197
Sacks By-Yds. Lost	7-60	3-28
Third-Down Conversions	40-53	18-53
Conversion Pct.	56.6	34.0
Fourth-Down Conversions	6-9	3-6
Conversion Pct.	66.7	50.0
Avg. Time Of Possession	33:25	26:35

Scoring	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	TOT
Nebraska	38	42	35	56	0	171
Opponents	7	17	7	14	0	45

2006 RESULTS, SCHEDULE

1	Sept. 2	Louisiana Tech (1-2), W 49-10	1-0
2	Sept. 9	Nicholls State (1-3), W 56-7	2-0
3	Sept. 16	@USC (3-0), 7 p.m., L 28-10	2-1
4	Sept. 23	Troy (1-3), W 56-0	3-1
5	Sept. 30	Kansas (3-1), 6:10 p.m., FSN	
6	Oct. 7	@Iowa State (2-2), TBA	
7	Oct. 14	@Kansas State (3-1), TBA	
8	Oct. 21	Texas (3-1), TBA	
9	Oct. 28	@Oklahoma State (3-1), TBA	
10	Nov. 4	Missouri (4-0), TBA (Homecoming)	
11	Nov. 11	@Texas A&M (4-0), TBA	
12	Nov. 24	Colorado (0-4), 2:30 p.m., ABC	
	Dec. 2	Big 12 Championship at Kansas City, Mo., 7 p.m., ABC	

SCOUTING REPORT

GAME 5

Kansas Sept. 30

Location: Lawrence, Kan.

Enrollment: 29,624

2006 record: 3-1

Coach: Mark Mangino, 5th year

Series: Nebraska leads 87-22-3

6:10 p.m. CDT, FSN

Memorial Stadium, Lincoln, Neb.

Quick Facts

Freshman Justin Thornton intercepted a pass as time expired to preserve KU's 13-7 victory over South Florida.

Kansas has started 3-1 for the second consecutive season.

Senior quarterback Adam Barmann filled in solidly for injured freshman Kerry Meier against USF. He was 25-of-35 for 273 yards and hit seven different receivers.

KU registered eight tackles-for-loss to give it 31 on the season.

Jayhawk to Watch

Running back Jon Cornish was KU's John Hadl Most Valuable Offensive Player of the Year for 2005. He led the team in rushing yards (780) and rushing touchdowns (nine), including a 72-yard touchdown run against Nebraska. Cornish has had three 100-yard games and rushed for 437 yards and two TDs this year.



BIG 12 AT A GLANCE

Saturday, Sept. 23

Nebraska 45, Troy 0
Louisville 24, Kansas State 6
Georgia 14, Colorado 13
Missouri 31, Ohio 6
Texas 37, Iowa State 14
Oklahoma 59, Middle Tennessee State 0
Kansas 13, South Florida 7
Army 27, Baylor 20
Texas Tech 62, Southeastern Louisiana 0
Texas A&M 45, Louisiana Tech 14
Houston 34, Oklahoma State 25

ON DECK

At Iowa State Oct. 7

Location: Ames, Iowa

Enrollment: 23,709

2006 record: 2-2

Coach: Dan McCarney, 12th year

Series: Nebraska leads 82-16-2

Time TBA

Jack Trice Stadium, Ames, Iowa



TENTATIVE 2-DEEPS

NEBRASKA OFFENSE

WRX	87	Nate Swift*	6-2	195	So.
	7	Frantz Hardy*	6-1	180	Jr.
LT	54	Chris Patrick*	6-4	290	Jr.
	76	Lydon Murtha*	6-7	315	So.
LG	65	Greg Austin***	6-1	295	Sr.
	62	Andy Christensen	6-3	300	So.
C	59	Brett Byford	6-3	300	Jr.
	62	Andy Christensen	6-3	300	So.
RG	61	Mike Huff*	6-4	305	So.
	67	Jacob Hickman	6-4	280	Fr.
RT	70	Matt Slauson*	6-5	335	So.
	77	Carl Nicks	6-5	325	Jr.
TE	11	Matt Herian***	6-5	245	Sr.
	81	Josh Mueller**	6-5	265	Jr.
WRZ	83	Terrence Nunn**	6-0	185	Jr.
	17	Todd Peterson*	6-4	210	So.
QB	13	Zac Taylor*	6-2	210	Sr.
	8	Joe Ganz	6-1	200	So.
FB	41	Dane Todd***	5-11	235	Sr.
	42	Matt Senske	6-3	235	Jr.
IB	20	Marlon Lucky*	6-0	210	So.
	27	Kenny Wilson	6-0	220	Jr.
PK	29	Jordan Congdon*	5-11	175	So.

NEBRASKA DEFENSE

DE	44	Jay Moore*	6-4	280	Sr.
	99	Barry Turner*	6-3	250	So.
NT	54	Ola Dagunduro*	6-2	300	Sr.
	93	Ndamukong Suh	6-4	315	So.
DT	94	Barry Cryer*	6-2	280	Sr.
	43	Ty Steinkuhler*	6-3	280	So.
DE	90	Adam Carriker***	6-6	295	Sr.
	98	Zach Potter*	6-7	280	So.
SLB	34	Stewart Bradley***	6-4	245	Sr.
	88	Clayton Sievers*	6-4	240	So.
MLB	13	Corey McKeon*	6-1	225	Jr.
	40	Lance Brandenburg**	6-1	230	Jr.
WLB	61	Bo Ruud**	6-3	235	Jr.
	15	Steve Octavien	6-0	240	Jr.
SCB	25	Andre Jones	6-0	195	Jr.
	4	Rickey Thenarse	6-0	185	Fr.
SS	30	Tierre Green**	6-1	200	Jr.
	6	Major Culbert	6-0	200	Fr.
FS	8	Andrew Shanle***	6-1	210	Sr.
	9	Bryan Wilson	6-1	200	Jr.
WCB	2	Cortney Grixby**	5-9	170	Jr.
	23	Corey Young	6-0	195	Fr.
P	97	Dan Titchener	6-0	200	So.

KANSAS OFFENSE

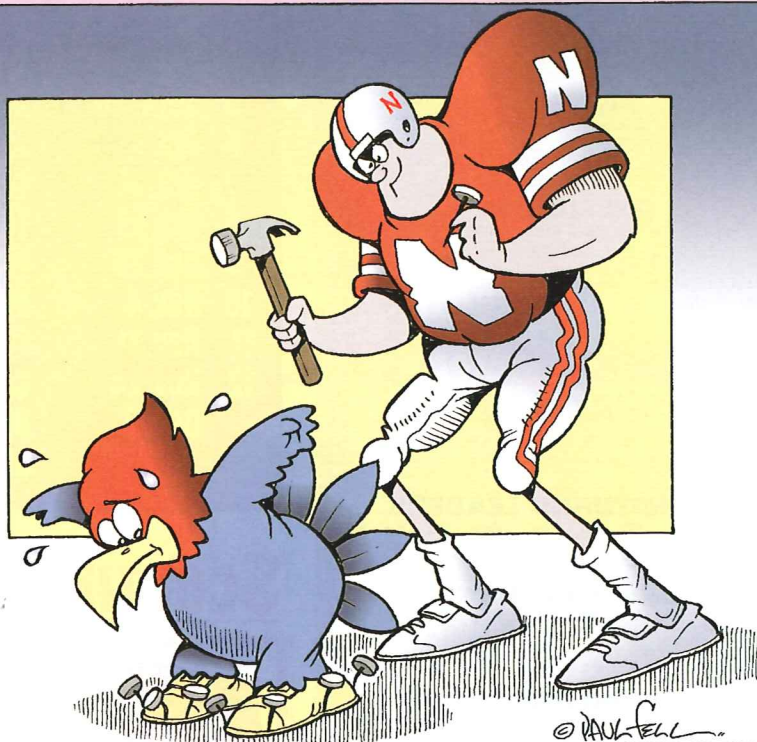
WR	80	Dominic Roux**	5-11	180	Sr.
	88	Dexton Fields*	6-0	200	So.
LT	65	Cesar Rodriguez**	6-7	290	Jr.
	63	Ian Wolfe	6-5	290	Fr.
LG	64	Jake Cox	6-5	315	Sr.
	77	Bob Whitaker***	6-5	315	Sr.
C	50	Ryan Cantrell*	6-3	297	So.
	55	John Marshall	6-2	285	Fr.
RG	69	Travis Dambach***	6-5	305	Sr.
	76	Matt Mann*	6-4	300	Sr.
RT	78	Anthony Collins*	6-6	305	So.
	70	Matt Darton	6-6	310	So.
TE	85	Derek Fine**	6-3	245	Jr.
	83	Marc Jones	6-4	265	Jr.
WR	13	Marcus Herford*	6-3	210	So.
	80	Dominic Roux**	5-11	180	Sr.
WR	6	Brian Murph*	6-1	190	Sr.
	86	Marcus Henry**	6-4	200	Jr.
QB	10	Kerry Meier	6-3	215	RFr.
	7	Adam Barmann***	6-4	218	Sr.
RB	29	Jon Cornish***	6-0	210	Sr.
	1	Jake Sharp	5-10	190	Fr.
K	39	Scott Webb**	5-11	180	Jr.

KANSAS DEFENSE

DE	98	Paul Como	6-2	255	Sr.
	84	Jeff Wheeler	6-7	250	RFr.
DT	93	James McClinton**	6-1	285	Jr.
	94	Caleb Blakesley	6-5	285	RFr.
NT	91	Wayne Wilder	6-3	310	Sr.
	72	Todd Haselhorst	6-4	300	So.
DE	92	Rodney Allen	6-3	280	Sr.
	97	John McCoy*	6-3	270	Sr.
LB	33	Eric Washington*	6-2	235	Sr.
	12	James Holt*	6-3	220	So.
LB	8	Joe Mortensen*	6-2	245	So.
	58	Jake Schermer	6-2	230	RFr.
LB	40	Mike Rivera*	6-3	250	So.
	16	Brandon Duncan	6-1	215	RFr.
CB	23	Blake Bueltel	6-0	180	Jr.
	31	Michael McCoy	5-11	185	Jr.
S	24	Jerome Kemp***	5-10	200	Sr.
	44	Olaitin Oguntodu	6-0	200	Fr.
S	25	Darrell Stuckey	6-1	200	RFr.
	36	Tang Bachevie	6-1	205	So.
CB	3	Aqib Talib*	6-2	190	So.
	36	Raymond Brown*	6-3	200	So.
P	15	Kyle Tucker**	6-2	210	Jr.

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Picks

Sept. 30



Brian Hill
Editor



Mike Babcock
Cont. Editor



Terry Douglass
G.I. Independent



Sean Callahan
Rivals.com



Blair Kerkhoff
Kansas City Star
(Guest)

Kansas @Nebraska	Nebraska 34, Kansas 13	Nebraska 38, Kansas 10	Nebraska 38, Kansas 13	Nebraska 27, Kansas 10	Nebraska 28, Kansas 12
Colorado @Missouri	Missouri 27, Colorado 17	Missouri 21, Colorado 3	Missouri 30, Colorado 7	Missouri 31, Colorado 13	Missouri 24, Colorado 14
Kansas State @Baylor	Baylor 24, Kansas St. 21	Baylor 31, Kansas St. 21	Baylor 21, Kansas St. 17	Baylor 17, Kansas St. 13	Baylor 27, Kansas St. 21
Ohio State @Iowa	Iowa 24, Ohio St. 21	Ohio St. 24, Iowa 14	Ohio St. 14, Iowa 10	Ohio St. 28, Iowa 24	Ohio St. 20, Iowa 13
Last Week	3-1	4-0	4-0	4-0	4-0
Season	11-5	16-0	15-1	15-1	15-1

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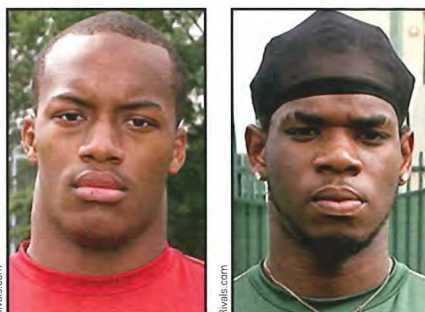
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One Down, One to Go

*Huskers likely
to add pair of
running backs
in 2007 class*

By Rick Shaw

Through the first three games of the 2006 college football season, Nebraska head coach Bill Callahan has shown a dedication to run the football. Though most casual observers of the game view a West Coast style offense as more of a pass-heavy style of play, the Nebraska coaching staff understands that achieving offensive balance is the key to realizing success on the field. Achieving that balance means that the



Quentin Castille (left) has committed to Nebraska. Other running back candidates include Bo Williams (right).

Huskers need to be able to run the football or "pound the rock" efficiently.

Nebraska's 2006 stable of running backs is young and talented but does not include any scholarship freshman players. In order to ensure future success in the ground game, the Nebraska staff likely will try to land two running back recruits in their

recruiting class of 2007.

One of those spots has already been claimed. Quentin Castille, a 6-foot-1, 234-pound athlete out of La Porte, Texas, committed to Husker coaches after an official visit to Lincoln earlier this month. A first-team all-district selection as a junior, Castille is a big back (cut from the same mold as current Husker Cody Glenn), who can get the tough yards inside. Castille chose the Huskers over overtures from Georgia Tech, Louisville, Michigan State, Iowa State and others.

Castille will provide the Huskers with "thunder" in the backfield, and the Nebraska staff continues to recruit a number of prospects they feel can provide a bit of "lightning" as well.

Bo Williams may represent Nebraska's best chance to score an elite running back prospect this year. The 6-1, 205-pound speedster (4.4-sec-

NEBRASKA COMMITMENTS FOR 2007

Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	40	Hometown (School)
Anthony Blue	DB	5-10	172	4.57	Cedar Hill, Texas
Quentin Castille	RB	6-1	234	4.6	La Porte, Texas
Jared Crick	DE	6-6	245	4.8	Cozad, Neb.
Demetrious Davis	DT	6-2	286	5.22	St. Joseph, Mo. (Benton)
Ian Harris	TE	6-3	217	4.76	San Antonio, Texas (Churchill)
Ryan Hill	TE	6-3	230	4.7	Arvada, Colo. (West)
Niles Paul	WR	6-2	210	4.4	Omaha, Neb. (North)
Shawn Sullivan	DB	5-11	182	4.4	Brenham, Texas
DeAndre West	DB	6-1	195	4.4	Oakland, Calif. (Wilson Prep)
Patrick Witt	QB	6-4	215	4.95	Wylie, Texas

For more daily recruiting information, visit HuskersIllustrated.com, a member of the Rivals.com network.

ond 40-yard dash) from Oakland Park, Fla. (Northeast), visited Lincoln for the game against Nicholls State and came away from the visit with the Huskers sitting atop his list of favorites.

"I'm going to take all of my visits, take things slow and check everything out, but Nebraska is definitely No. 1 with me right now," Williams said.

"Chances are real high that I end up at Nebraska. I wanted it to feel like home, and it felt like home. Everything was great about Nebraska. The people there are just amazing. They show you so much love, you just want to be part of it all."

Williams, who rushed for more than 500 yards in his first three contests this season, is rated as the No. 19 running back prospect in the country (four stars) by Rivals.com. Williams, who is already holding scholarship offers from more than 70 Division I programs, intends to take visits to Pittsburgh, Florida State and West Virginia before finalizing a college decision.

Another star runner from the Sunshine State looking at the Huskers is Noel Devine. The 5-8, 175-pound blue-chipper out of North Fort Meyers, has drawn a number of comparisons to 2005 Heisman trophy winner Reggie Bush, for his ability to single-handedly change the outcome of a game.

A first-team all-state running back as both a sophomore and a junior, Devine already had amassed more than 4,700 rushing yards at Fort Meyers heading into his senior season. Blessed with outstanding speed (4.4 40-yard dash) and quickness, the Florida back has scholarship offers from Southern California, Florida State, Auburn and Nebraska, to name a few.

Rated the No. 17 prospect in the country at any position (five stars), by Rivals.com, Devine's main obstacle to success in Division I football will likely be in the classroom. Though Devine has some ground to make up with his academics, Nebraska assistant John Blake is doing everything he can to lure the Florida star to Lincoln for a visit.

"My favorites, right now, are probably Nebraska and USC and Florida State. They are the three that I've talked to on the phone the most. I've talked to the whole Nebraska coach-

RECRUITING NOTES

Several Targets in State in 2008

By Sean Stevens

Although 2006 season has barely begun and the 2007 recruiting class is yet to be filled, it's never too early to take a look at the 2008 possibilities. In-state recruiting will be a priority for NU in 2008.

Nebraska high schools could produce as many as three of the Rivals.com "Rivals100" players in 2008. Lincoln Southwest lineman Baker Steinkuhler, Omaha Central running back Ronnell Grixby and Elkhorn lineman Trevor Robinson all received Husker scholarship offers on Sept. 1, the first day the NCAA allows juniors to be offered. Steinkuhler immediately committed to NU head coach Bill Callahan to jump-start the 2008 class.

Robinson is a 6-foot-5, 290-pounder with 5.2-second speed in the 40-yard dash. He spent his summer on the camp circuit at places such as Texas A&M, Iowa, Notre Dame, Ohio State, Michigan and Nebraska and saw his stock rise tremendously.

Robinson received offers from both Nebraska and Notre Dame on Sept. 1, and Boston College has since joined the fray.

While he likes the Huskers, he's in no hurry to make a choice.

"I really like them," he said. "I just don't know what I am going to major in, and it is going to be big. It is something to help me make a decision on where I want to go. I want to look

Trevor Robinson

at the academic part of it as well as the football."

Expect Robinson's recruitment to stretch into the 2007 season.

Grixby is another legacy of sorts, as his brothers DeAntae and Cortney are either former or current Huskers. The youngest brother might be the best of the group. He has been hearing not only from Nebraska but also schools such as Oregon, Notre Dame, and Georgia Tech.

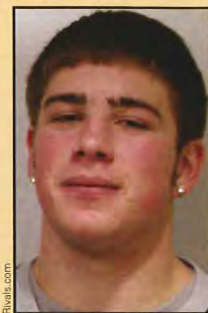
At 5-9 but weighing in at a rock-solid 190 pounds, Grixby reminds some of former Huskers DeAngelo Evans and Cory Ross. His future in college might be on the other side of the ball, however.

"I went down to the Nebraska opener," Grixby said. "When I was down there, I got to talk to their secondary coach (Phil) Elmassian. He said they want me mainly as a free safety. That's OK with me because I like to play defense more anyway. I love to hit and be physical out on the football field."

Look for Grixby's recruitment to also stretch into next year, as he plans to take some official visits.

"In addition to Nebraska, I like the other schools close to (Omaha), like Kansas State, Iowa and Iowa State," he said. "Nebraska would always be No. 1 because they're close to home. It's good to go and check other things out, though. It gets me more familiar with other opportunities out there at other places."

• While those are the only three recruits to receive Husker offers thus far, there are other Division I possibilities in the 2008 class. Millard North's linebacker Eric Ringblom, lineman Brian Thorson and athlete Sean Fisher are all possibilities, as well as Lincoln Southwest running back Brandon Brown and Brainard (East Butler) safety Jordan Makovicka, who is yet another Husker legacy. ■



Baker Steinkuhler



Ronnell Grixby

ing staff a couple of times, the whole USC staff a couple of times and the whole staff at Florida State, too."

"I like Nebraska because I like the way their coaches are straight-up with me. I know one of their coaches (Blake) through Deion Sanders. Deion played for coach Blake when he was with the (Dallas) Cowboys."

The Husker staff also is looking out West at a couple of talented prospects, including Roy Helu out of Danville, Calif. (San Ramon Valley). Rated the No. 88 prospect in the state by Rivals.com (three stars), Helu visited Lincoln with his family in early September. He said the visit went well.

"The visit was great," Helu said. "The Nebraska fan base is incredible. Four or five hours after the game, everyone was still walking the streets, and when we got back to our hotel there were all of these people that had traveled a long way to see the game."

"When I was walking in the stadium, I got goose bumps. During the Tunnel Walk, everyone was going crazy in the sea of red. I liked the



Noel Devine



Roy Helu



Malachi Lewis

offensive scheme coach Callahan put together. It was really nice. They used a lot of different formations. The visit was definitely a 10."

Helu, who also has offers from California, Oregon and BYU said he plans to take a few more visits before making any kind of college decision. He earned first-team all-league as a junior after rushing for 1,526 yards and 19 touchdowns. He added another 500 yards and four touchdowns on receptions.

Malachi Lewis of Oxnard, Calif. (Rio Mesa), is yet another top prospect from out West looking hard at Nebraska. Rated the No. 19 prospect in the state by Rivals.com (four stars), Lewis said he's been impressed with what he's seen from

the Cornhuskers on the field this fall.

"I watched Nebraska's first game, and I was really impressed," Lewis said.

"I've watched them over the years, and I know they have a good program. They've always run the ball well, and now, they pass a little bit more with the new coaching staff, too."

Lewis, who also holds offers from Arizona, Cal, Colorado, Georgia, Oregon and others, said he plans to take all of his allotted visits before making a college decision. A second-team all-state selection as a junior and his league's player of the year, Lewis rushed for 2,187 yards and 24 touchdowns in 2005 and was also a stand-out linebacker on defense.

Nebraska has plenty of options in its for running backs in the 2007 class. The Huskers have shown a heightened focus on the running game in early 2006 and a dedication to make "pounding the rock" an integral part of their offensive game plan. ■

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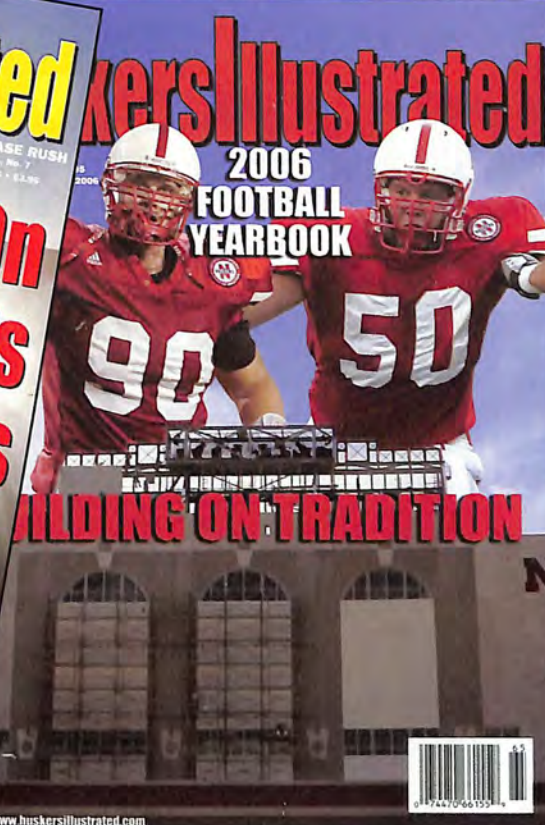
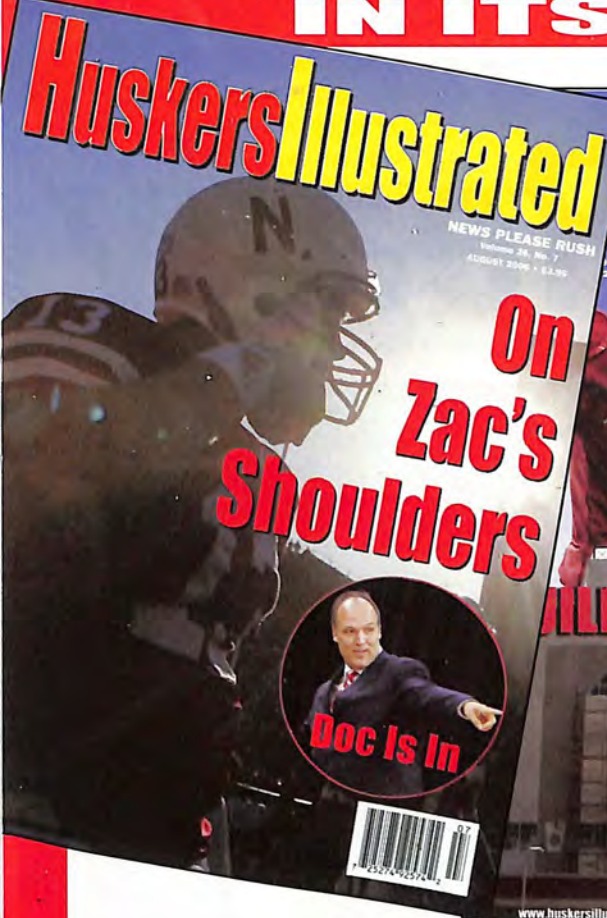


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**Key moments
Schwartz played
as a freshman are
paying dividends**

By Todd Henrichs

Rachel Schwartz recalls her freshman season as being filled with surprises. That is, Schwartz never knew from game to game whether she would even play.

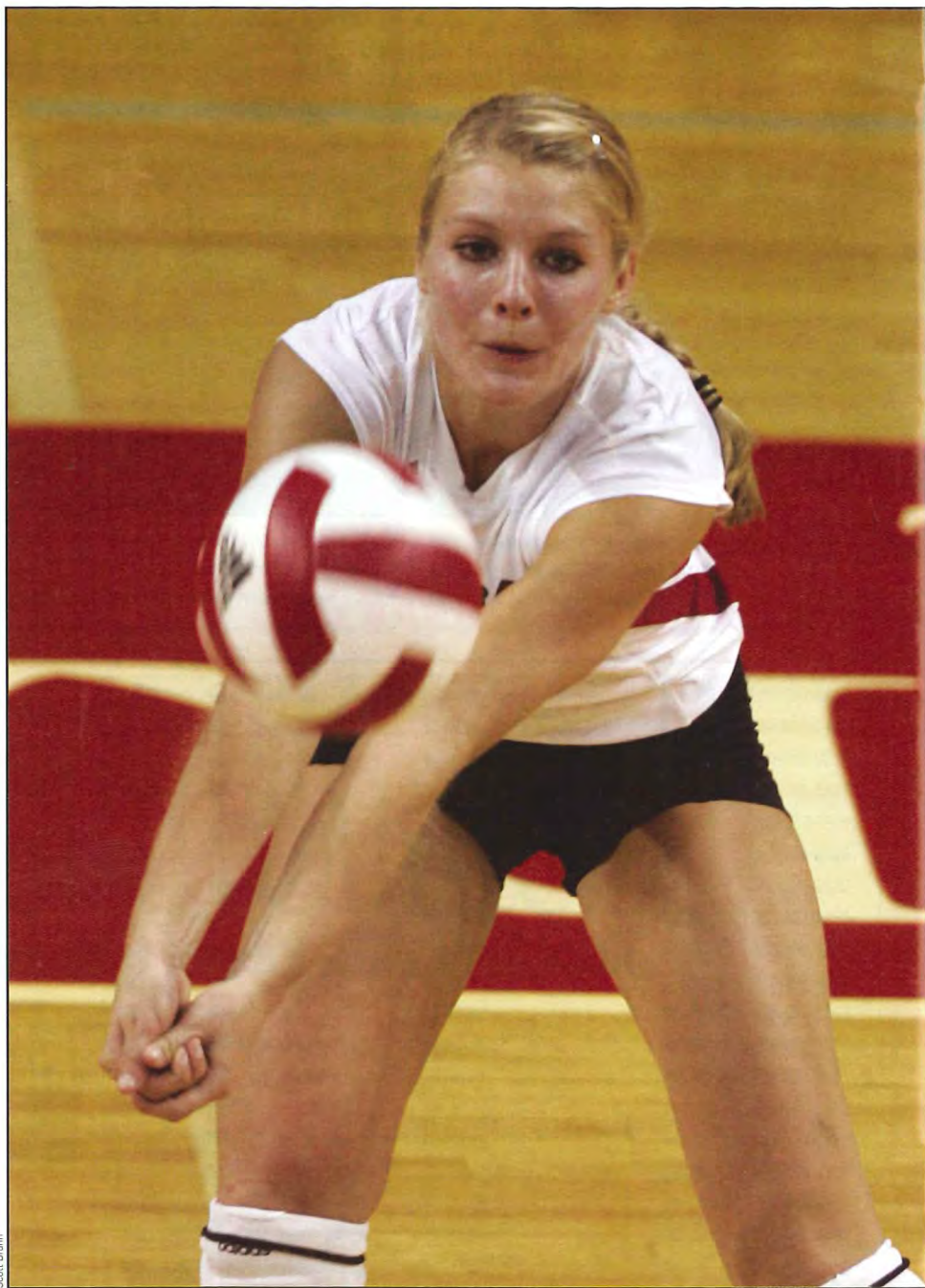
"Sometimes, he'd just yell, 'Schwartz, go,' and I'd go sprinting in there," said Schwartz, a sophomore from Lincoln East High School, who admits to being caught off guard a few times when head coach John Cook would call her name.

"Sometimes I was a little nervous because he'd put me in at crucial times," she added. "But I like being in pressure situations, and I like having to deal with that. It was a good thing for me."

Those key moments that Schwartz played in her freshman year are paying dividends this season as she plays a more regular role for the Huskers. A recruited walk-on, Schwartz is now on scholarship and plays three back-row rotations for starting outside hitter Dani Mancuso.

Schwartz, along with first-year libero Dani Busboom and teammates Jordan Larson and Rachel Holloway, has been credited for Nebraska's marked improvement in floor defense this season.

Facing a Long Beach State team known for its defensive prowess, Nebraska came up with 21 more digs than the 49ers. Of the Huskers' non-conference opponents, only Minnesota was able to put together



Former walk-on Rachel Schwartz is used as a defensive specialist in the Nebraska lineup and averages 1.61 digs per game.

impressive numbers offensively.

"We just have people back there now who can play floor defense," Cook said. "To me, that's one of the biggest differences between last

year's team and this year's team. It is very difficult to get a ball down on us clean."

With that kind of confidence comes heightened expectations. Schwartz

shares in those lofty goals and says she has taken more responsibility this season and is working to be a better communicator on the court.

Although confident in her abilities to play at the Division I level, Schwartz said there were moments last season that were "kind of shaky." Looking back, she says she wasn't always as aggressive as she needed to be.

"He expected a lot from me last year, but I can tell he has stepped it up a bit," Schwartz said. "I really like that he holds me accountable. And as far as the whole team goes, he really wants us to succeed, and he'll do anything he can to help us."

Through the first week of Big 12 Conference play, Nebraska remained unbeaten and was ranked as the No. 1 team in the country for a record 59th week.

Nebraska dropped only one game in its first nine matches, a game-1 set-back against Minnesota that ended the longest string of sweeps to open a season for the Huskers in some 30 years.

Nebraska bounced back to win three straight against the Gophers, then swept Kansas and Oklahoma to open conference play. Facing the Sooners in Nebraska's first road match of the season, Schwartz came through with three key service points as the Huskers rallied to take game 1.

Schwartz has proven a consistent passer, and defensively, averages around 1.6 digs per game.

"For me, it was just a lot about building confidence, making sure I'd pass the ball and pass it well every time, being a communicator and a leader out there on the court, telling people, 'You need to be here,' and the defense we're in," Schwartz said. "Little things like that are what I needed to strive for."

A defensive specialist this season, and potentially the team's libero in 2007, Schwartz' playing background includes an outstanding high school career as a hitter. In her senior year at East, Schwartz ranked among Class A's leaders in not only digs, but kills.

Schwartz shares a house with Nebraska setters Rachel Holloway and Maggie Griffin, a place where talk of volleyball is often set aside and replaced by the fun and relaxation of movie nights and dinners

with neighbors.

This Nebraska team, Schwartz said, is different than any other she's been on.

"We have such a chemistry together, not just on the court but off the court," she said. "We love hanging out with each other, and we do it a lot."

That connection can make a difference on the court, Schwartz said.

"This year, it's going to be more about our hearts getting those balls up that not everybody thinks we can get up or killing it at a key moment," she said. "I think we're going to surprise a lot of people." ■

Todd Henrichs covers the Nebraska volleyball team for the Lincoln Journal Star. He can be reached at 473-7439 or thenrichs@journalstar.com

RESULTS, SCHEDULE

Aug. 29 San Diego W 3-0

Labor Day Tournament At Lincoln, Neb.

Sept. 1 St. Mary's W 3-0
Sept. 2 Middle Tennessee St. W 3-0
Sept. 3 Long Beach State W 3-0

Players Challenge At Lincoln, Neb.

Sept. 8 Louisville W 3-0
Sept. 9 Cal Poly W 3-0
Sept. 10 Minnesota W 3-1

Sept. 13 Kansas W 3-0
Sept. 16 @Oklahoma W 3-0
Sept. 20 Iowa State W 3-0
Sept. 23 Texas Tech TBA
Sept. 24 @Creighton 2 p.m.
Sept. 30 @Baylor TBA
Oct. 4 Kansas State 7 p.m.
Oct. 7 @Texas A&M
Oct. 11 @Missouri 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 14 Colorado 7 p.m.
Oct. 18 @Texas 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 25 Missouri 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 28 @Kansas State 7 p.m.
Nov. 1 @Texas Tech 7 p.m.
Nov. 4 Oklahoma TBA
Nov. 8 @Iowa State 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 11 @Colorado 8 p.m.
Nov. 15 Texas A&M 7 p.m.
Nov. 18 Baylor 7 p.m.
Nov. 22 @Kansas 7 p.m.
Nov. 25 Texas 7 p.m.

Nov. 30-Dec. 3
NCAA First/Second Rounds
At Campus Sites

Dec. 8-9
NCAA Regionals
At Campus Sites

Dec 14-16
NCAA Final Four
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No Backing Down

**Mother helped
Husker golfer
with mental
toughness**

BY KATELYN KERKHOVE

Don't expect JC Stevenson to back down.

A true freshman starting for the Nebraska women's golf team, Stevenson has an edge that is hard to come by for most golfers, even older ones.

But for Stevenson, mental toughness has been a part of her golf game since she started playing and even more so since the death of her mother eight years ago.

"My mom had a major influence on me because I know when I play now she's always with me to keep me steady," Stevenson said. "My dad always reminds me that she was a good golfer."

Golf brought Stevenson and her father, C.L., closer together after her mother's death. Since it had been a family game, sharing golf with her father made her mother's death a little easier.

That doesn't mean they never disagreed, however.

"We argue on the field about what I should do," Stevenson said. "Now, he just comes and watches once in a while, and if I'm really confused, I guess, then I'll ask him something. But, thankfully, he's kind of let go, and I've moved on to swing coaches."

While her father has let go of Stevenson's technical game, her mother still has a huge influence on the Grand Island native's mental game.

To Stevenson, it's her mother who helps her focus on the course, especially when things are going bad. In her first collegiate competition at the Badger Invitational in Verona, Wis.,



Nebraska freshman JC Stevenson shot a 72 in the final round of her first college tournament — the Badger Invitational in Verona, Wis.

on Sept. 10-11, Stevenson said she was low on confidence during Sunday's rainy rounds. She shot an 80 and an 82 in her first two rounds on the course.

"She had to play 54 holes in the rain in that tournament," Husker coach Robin Krapfl said. "To be able

to come out as a freshman — it was her first 36 holes walking — and to do it in the rain and then wake up the next day and it's still raining, you have to be tough mentally to focus."

But Monday was a different story as far as her score. Shaking off the

rounds from the day before, Stevenson led the field, shooting a 72 on her final 18 holes of the tournament.

"It felt awesome that I was able to contribute to the team," Stevenson said. "It has always been a big dream to play for Nebraska, so to have the lowest score of the tournament on my second day of my first tournament was awesome. It really made me feel like a Husker."

To Krapfl, starting positions are always up for grabs, but Stevenson has a mental edge about her that has helped her on the courses so far.

While true freshmen have stepped into starting positions the last four years, Krapfl said it takes a special person to adjust to collegiate level golf and school at the same time. Stevenson has been successful so far, but Krapfl said there are still things on which she needs to work.

While Stevenson's short game is top notch, she struggles off the tee and with long irons. Naming her the "shortest hitter on my team," Krapfl said she has been working with Stevenson on her swing a lot over the summer and this fall.

What makes Stevenson a traveling team candidate, however, is that even though she struggles, she always seems to find "a way to get the ball in the hole," Krapfl said.

With her tough mental edge and her ambition to improve on her technique and consistency, Stevenson said she has two goals for her freshman season.

"I guess my first goal for the season is to keep trying to continue to qualify for the traveling team," she said. "Other than that, I would just like to throw in some good scores to help my team advance, so we can snag a few titles this year. I just want to remain consistent like I was in high school."

Riding her high school successes — appearing in three state championship tournaments and being named the 2005 Nebraska Girls Junior Player of the Year — Stevenson has hit the collegiate courses strong.

"Obviously, she's off to a great start. She's going to have to continue to battle for a starting position. We have other players who want to get into the lineup," Krapfl said. "If she continues at this pace, she'll have an outstanding freshman year."

This much is certain, she won't back down from the challenge.

STRONG FINISH

Stevenson's par-72 in the final round combined with 1-over-par 73s by junior Elli Brown and freshman Kate White to move the Huskers into a third-place tie with Oklahoma, 12 strokes behind champion Indiana. Host Wisconsin finished second, by a single stroke.

Brown was Nebraska's top finisher, with a 12-over-par 228, good for fifth among individuals. Stevenson moved from a tie for 31st to a tie for 12th. The other Husker totals: White, 236, tie 19th; Chrissie McArdle, 239, tie 27th; Allison Stewart, 239, tie 27th; and Megan Place, 242, tie 68th.

Stewart competed as an individual in the tournament. Her score did not count in the team total.

A week later, the Huskers won their fourth consecutive Chip-N Club Invitational title in Lincoln. McArdle led the team with a 229 total and was tied for medalist honors after regulation. She lost a playoff, on the second hole, to Missouri State's Sally Hinton, who made up three strokes on the final day.

Nebraska's other finishers: Brown, 231,

tie 4th; White, 233, 7th; Stewart, 238, 14th; Charlotte Wendner, 242, tie 21st; Stevenson, 244, tie 27th; Andrea Carlson (Dunagan), 248, tie 33rd and Place, 262, tie 68th.

Krapfl was pleased with the effort. "We had the success of winning a tournament in tough scoring conditions against NCAA Regional-caliber competition," she said.

MEN'S FALL SEASON

Coach Bill Spangler's men's team opened its five-tournament fall schedule with a 10th-place finish at the Inverness Intercollegiate Invitational. Brady Schnell led the Cornhuskers with a three-round total of 225 (80-70-75) on the par-71 course. He was followed by: Drew Reynolds, 233 (75-79-79); Ty Capps 234 (75-81-78); Ryan Lenahan, 236 (85-75-76); and Jamie Marshall, 245 (81-85-79).

Schnell and Capps led Nebraska to a second-place tie at the Kansas Invitational a week later at Lawrence, Kan., with totals of 218. Reynolds finished at 220, followed by Lenahan (232) and Trent Price (233). Schnell, Reynolds, Capps and Lenahan are seniors, Marshall a freshman and Price a sophomore. ■

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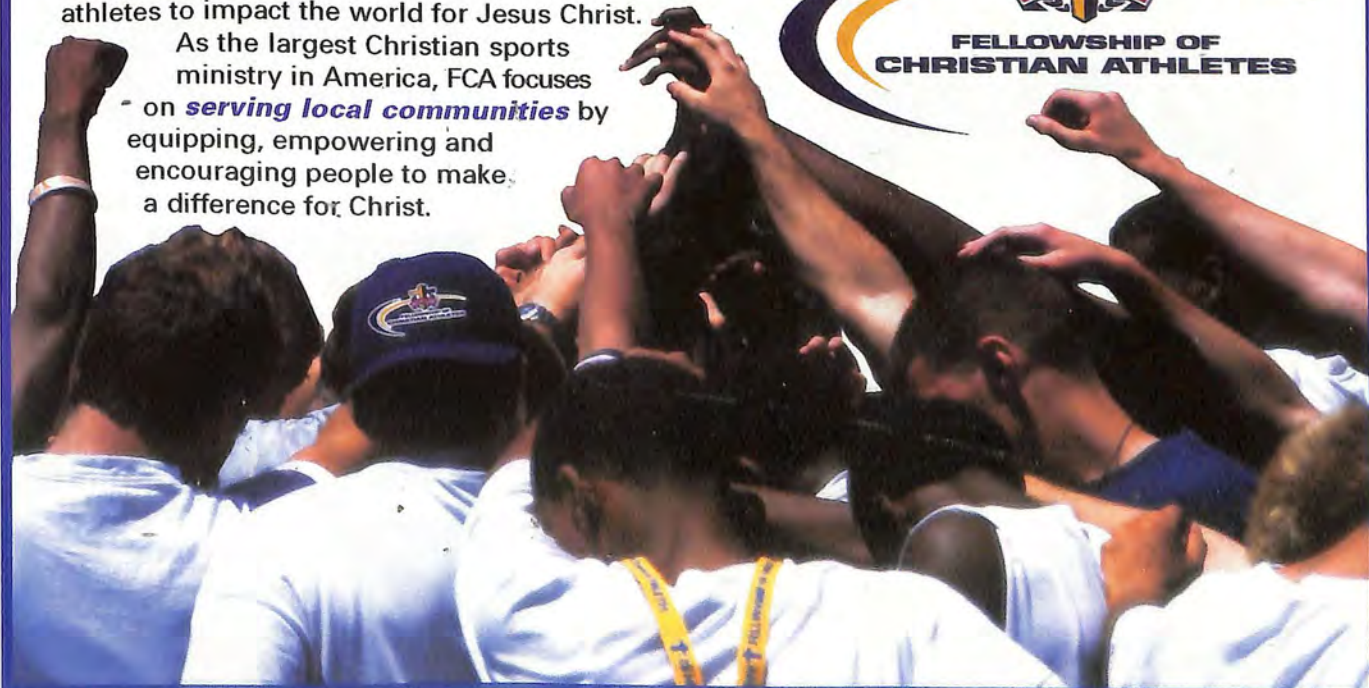
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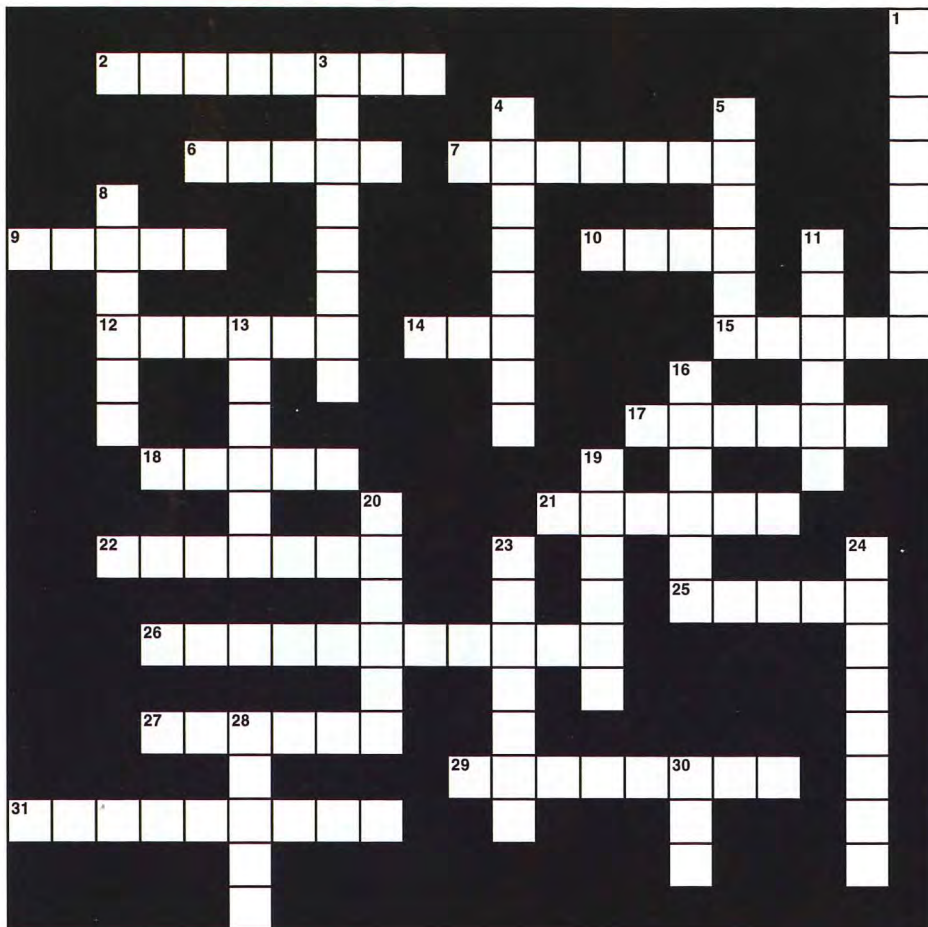
ACROSS

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- 6 Holder for place-kicks
- 7 Kansas head coach
- 9 Wore retired jersey No. 64
- 10 Tampa Bay Bucs linebacker
- 12 Nate Swift's high school teammate (last name)
- 14 Network for NU-KU telecast
- 15 Wears No. 77
- 17 Carolina Panthers safety
- 18 Long snapper
- 21 Kenny Wilson's home state
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- 27 Offensive lineman from Texas
- 29 Wears No. 17
- 31 Barry Cryer's home state

DOWN

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- 3 Chris Patrick's home state
- 4 Kansas campus location
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- 8 Cornerback out for season
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- 13 Scored only touchdown vs. USC
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- 19 New basketball coach
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Answers in Oct. 7 issue



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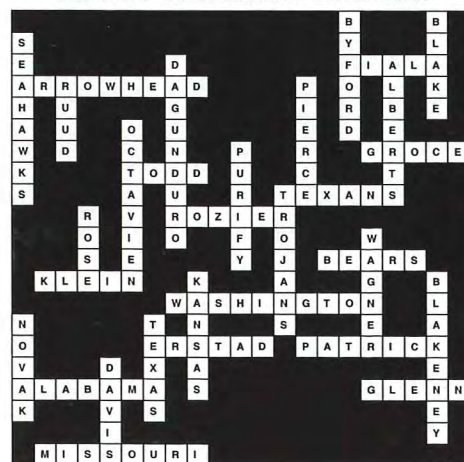
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Shifting Gears

Callahan says the Huskers learned from the USC experience, refocused and moved on



**Mike
BABCOCK**

YES, MATT SLAUSON grew weary of the question of why Nebraska didn't throw more against USC. But no, he and the other offensive linemen didn't take post-game criticism personally.

"At least not all of it," the sophomore tackle said after the Cornhuskers' 56-0 victory against Troy to complete the nonconference season. "We say, 'Man, we're getting heat.'

"But we just watch the film, see what we did wrong, and what we did good. Last week it was a little more bad than good. This week, hopefully, there's going to be more good than bad."

He wouldn't know for sure until he saw the videotape.

"The eye in the sky never lies," he said.

Chances are, what Slauson saw was a lot more good than bad. At times, the offensive linemen were "man-handling" Troy defenders, said quarterback Zac Taylor. "I get a chance to kind of peek back after I hand the ball off, and there were holes everywhere. They did a good job."

That was reflected in the Cornhuskers' rushing total. Certainly, Marlon Lucky and Kenny Wilson ran well, coach Bill Callahan said. But "when your line's playing well and they're getting removal, they're getting movement off the line of scrimmage, you can plug in any back."

Nebraska's line didn't get much "removal" against USC, a fact that figured into week-long criticism of what was construed as Callahan's conservative game plan. Somewhere in Memorial Stadium, no doubt, the issue was still being debated, passionately, while the Cornhuskers warmed up.

Instead of dwelling on the matter, they set it aside and turned their attention to Troy. They refocused. "You've got to shift gears," said Callahan, learn from the experience and move on.

The offensive line got his attention. He spent time during the week's practices coaching the offensive line, in fact. Line coach Dennis Wagner "allowed me to coach with him," Callahan said.

"Allowed" might not be the right word. He is, after all, the head coach.

Callahan's background is as an offensive line coach, of course. And he often spent time working with the line during the spring. "I do every week," he said. "I just help Dennis when he needs some help. He'll ask me to assist him every now and then. I'm more than happy to do that."

"It was fun to be with those guys and see a lot of things happen positively."

Callahan's involvement was beneficial, not only because

he's "a great offensive line coach," said Slauson, but also because "he's so technical with everything he does."

"And that really helped us a lot with a few blocks we've been having trouble getting. Having him there is a lot of fun because we learn so much from him."

What the linemen have learned, and what some fans have learned, too, is that even though Callahan's version of the West Coast offense relies on passing, it doesn't ignore the run; it can't afford to.

"We still have a real pounding mentality," Slauson said. "We love running the ball. Our emphasis since the spring has been run, run, run the ball. It's finally coming together."

"We're really happy to give our running backs holes to run through."

Even though Nebraska struggled to run the ball against USC, Callahan saw glimpses of what his team is capable of doing on the ground. "We've been close," he said. "We've been knocking on the door on a lot of our runs, and it was great to see. The timing's getting better. You can see the execution."

The disappointment of an opportunity lost in Los Angeles quickly gave way to thoughts of Troy and beyond that to the Big 12 schedule, which begins this week against Kansas. The Cornhuskers are favorites to win the North Division and advance to the championship game for the first time since 1999.

If the team were going to look past Troy or "hang our heads about the USC game, there was going to be a surprising game in Lincoln, Nebraska," said senior free safety Andrew Shanle.

That needed to be avoided. So Troy had the Cornhuskers' attention on both sides of the ball.

"I would tell you that our team was extremely focused. You could feel them in the locker room," Callahan said. "You can sense a team when they're focused and when they're not focused. And they certainly were concentrating on this game. They were tuned in. They were dialed into this game."

"It was important to them, and they wanted to come out and perform well."

Without that focus, the offense probably wouldn't have been as potent as it was.

"We didn't exactly have the best week of practice offensively," said Taylor. It was "just kind of a long week. We had a couple of days that were good, a couple of days that were off."

But "we were all focused," he said. "I was happy with how we responded."

So was Slauson. "We took care of a few things we didn't do last week," he said.

At least he thought so. He'd have to wait to see on the videotape to be sure. ■



Tackle Matt Slauson says the emphasis has been on running the ball.

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